Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-95-240 *14 December 1995*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Official on Israel, Christopher, Turkey *[MENA]* 1
Arab Draft Accord on Nuclear-Free Mideast Detailed *[SPA]* 1

Islamic Affairs

Velayati Meets With Counterparts at OIC Meeting *[IRNA]* 3
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 5 Dec 3
Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 8 Dec 5

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Christopher To Meet in Jericho 16 Dec *[Jericho VOP]* 8
'Arafat Announces Candidacy for President *[AFP]* 8
'Urayqat on Elections, Jerusalem Constituency *[Jericho VOP]* 8
Decree Invites People To Elect Legislative Council *[Jericho VOP]* 10
'Ashrawi To Form Independent Electoral List *[AL-MANAR 11 Dec]* 10
Frayj Urges 18 Dec Israeli Pullout From Bethlehem *[Jericho VOP]* 10
Hamas Spokesman on Elections, Dialogue With PA *[AL-AHRAM WEEKLY 13 Dec]* 10
PA-Hamas Dialogue Said Off to 'Good Start' *[IRNA]* 12
Hamas Team Leaves for Meetings With PA *[Jericho VOP]* 12
Delegation to Cairo Dialogue With Hamas Named *[Jericho VOP]* 12
Former Hamas Member To Head National Dialogue Office *[HA'ARETZ 12 Dec]* 12
Islamic Jihad Member on al-Shaqaqi, Peres, Rabin *[ETTELA'AT 3 Dec]* 13
Comments on Camp David, Egypt *[ETTELA'AT 4 Dec]* 14

Arab-Israeli Talks

Peres Meets With King Hassan in Morocco 15
Arrives for Second Visit *[Rabat Radio]* 15
Briefs King on U.S. Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
Holds News Conference With King *[Rabat Radio]* 15
Comments on Peace Process, King's Role *[Rabat Radio]* 16
Hails 'Constructive' Talks *[Rabat TV]* 16
May Establish 'Full Diplomatic Relations' *[HA'ARETZ 14 Dec]* 17
Israel, PA Discuss Nabulus Events, Passports *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

LIBERTE Director, Journalist Sentenced *[Paris International]* 18
FIS Statement Condemns Algiers Bombing *[IRNA]* 18

Egypt

Musa on Peace Prospects, Iraq, Other Issues *[London AL-HAYAH 13 Dec]* 18

Musa on Decision To Send Forces to Bosnia *[Cairo Radio]* 22
Mubarak, Saudi Prince Khalid Discuss Iraq *[MENA]* 22
Mubarak, Peres Discuss Peace Proposals on Phone *[Cairo Radio]* 23
Ambassador to Beirut Views Sudanese Envoy's Remarks *[MENA]* 23
'Terrorist Scheme' Foiled; 56 Arrested *[MENA]* 23
Pakistan Hands Over Embassy Bomb Suspect *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Dec]* 25
Fathi Surur Elected People's Assembly Speaker *[Cairo Radio]* 25

Sudan

Al-Bashir, Ghana President Rawlings Hold Talks 26
Discuss Relations *[Omdurman Radio]* 26
Comment on Issues *[Omdurman Radio]* 26
Opposition, AAPSO Warn of Regime's Plans *[MENA]* 26
Garang-Led 'Liberation' Movement Repulses Attack *[MENA]* 27
Al-Turabi on Dayton Accord, Regional Issues *[Omdurman Radio]* 27

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Minister Tells of Iraqi Activity Against Nation *[IRNA]* 28

Saudi Arabia

CDLR on Alleged Power Struggle Between King's Brothers *[London CDLR MONITOR 11 Dec]* 28
Pilgrimage Minister, Iranian Envoy Discuss Hajj *[Riyadh TV]* 29

Yemen

Claims of Clashes on Saudi Borders Said 'Baseless' *[London AL-HAYAH 13 Dec]* 29
Official Denies Telling Press About Border Movements *[SPA]* 29

IRAQ

Saddam Receives 'Udayy's Cable on Leader's Campaigns *[INA]* 30
Saddam Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Economy *[Baghdad TV]* 30
Objections to King Husayn Partition Plan Aired *[London AL-HAYAH 12 Dec]* 31
Turkomans Islamic Federation Official on Jordan 'Plan' *[Tehran International]* 33
'Arab Diplomats' Analyze Change in Jordan's Stand *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 33
Three Opposition Movements Reportedly Merge *[London AL-HAYAH 13 Dec]* 34

ISRAEL

Announcement Expected on Resuming Talks With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Peres Proposes 'Open-Ended Flexibility' With Syrians *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35
Peres Denies Handing Clinton 'Interim Deal' Proposal *[HA'ARETZ 14 Dec]* 36
Baraq Views Conditions for Golan Withdrawal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Beilin Says Progress With Syria Possible *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 37
Minister on U.S. Bridging Document on Syrian Track *[DAVAR RISHON 14 Dec]* 37
Paper Calls For Measured U.S. Involvement on Syria *[HA'ARETZ 13 Dec]* 38
Baraq on Territories Elections, Talks With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Protest Lodged With PA Over Nabulus Rioting *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 13 Dec]* 39
Peres: Settlers Not To Be Compensated *[Jerusalem TV]* 40
Beilin Says Against Compensating Settlers *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Dec]* 40

Lubrani: Iran To Use Bosnia To Attack U.S. Targets *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 41

JORDAN

King, Christopher To Discuss MENA Proposals, Aid *[JORDAN TIMES 15 Dec]* 42
King Calls For Change in Iraqi Government *[AFP]* 42
Iraq's 'Aziz Urges Noninvolvement With Opposition *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 13 Dec]* 43
Weekly's Editor Charged With Slandering Saddam *[AFP]* 44
Charges Detailed *[AL-RA'Y 13 Dec]* 44
Official: Decision To Expel Iranian Envoy Final *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Dec]* 44
King Congratulates 'Arafat on Israeli Withdrawal *[Amman Radio]* 45
Opposition Parties Form Committee To Defend Party *[AL-DUSTUR 13 Dec]* 45
Prime Minister Defends Measures Against Shubaylat *[JORDAN TIMES 15 Dec]* 46

SYRIA

Radio Commentaries View Peres' U.S. Statements 48
Remarks 'Step in Right Direction' *[Damascus Radio]* 48
'Other Steps,' Actions Needed *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Paper Views Christopher's Tour, Peres Remarks *[SANA]* 49
Spokesman Details al-Asad Anniversary Amnesty Bill *[AFP]* 50

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Kabul Airport Region Said Hit by 30 Rockets *[Tehran International]* 51
Taleban Fires Rockets at Kabul 'Residential Areas' *[Kabul Radio]* 51
Government Repels Taleban Offensive South of Kabul *[IRNA]* 51
Central Regions of Kabul Hit by Rockets *[IRNA]* 51

Iran

U.S. Senate's 'Bullying' Sanctions Criticized *[IRNA]* 51
Official Criticizes Peres' 'Unfounded' Statement *[IRNA]* 52
Radio Views 'Ambiguites' of Bosnian Peace Accord *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Velayati Returns From OIC, Paris Conferences *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Velayati's Comments on OIC Reported *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Further on Velayati's Comments *[IRNA]* 54
Paper Criticizes Bonn for 'Unfriendly Gestures' *[IRNA]* 54
Rafsanjani Receives New Qatari Ambassador *[Tehran TV]* 55

Pakistan

Officials, Press View U.S. Statement on Karachi 55
Party Leaders on 'Interference' *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Editorial Views 'Misplaced Concern' *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 14 Dec]* 55
Daily Backs Rejection of U.S. 'Concern' *[THE NATION 14 Dec]* 56
Daily Views 'Unfortunate' Comment *[THE NEWS 14 Dec]* 57

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Official on Israel, Christopher, Turkey

NC1312184295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1625 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political and international affairs, has urged the international community to pressure Israel into joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and subjecting all its nuclear installations to international inspection.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, 'Imran said a treaty must be formulated to which all Middle Eastern countries would be committed. This treaty, he said, should provide for the abolition of all weapons of mass destruction including nuclear weapons. He explained that all the parties realize that there will never be a real and workable peace as long as one country has nuclear weapons with which it can threaten the other regional countries. He pointed out that there is a major flaw in the Middle Eastern nuclear dossier and a basic shortcoming in the international position that restrains the Arab role, but allows Israel to accumulate nuclear weapons. Ambassador 'Imran described the international attitude on the nuclear arms issue as disappointing, because it failed to pressure Israel into joining the NPT. He said it was this attitude that encouraged Israel to keep its nuclear arsenal and threaten the entire region. 'Imran added that the United Nations' double standard undermines its operations and has turned it into a tool in the hands of some countries. He explained that the double standards are evident in the imposition of sanctions on countries like Iraq and Libya, while Israel is allowed to continue defying UN resolutions.

Asked to comment on Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' recent remarks about new developments in the Middle East peace process, 'Imran said that Peres' remarks were for publicity purposes only and have lost their credibility. He said you cannot rely on such remarks unless they are accompanied by the implementation of UN resolutions and withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem.

He added that Peres should not think that peace is a favor he is doing the Arabs, because peace serves the interests of all the region's countries. 'Imran stressed that this peace should be founded on the restoration of all territories and rights to their owners.

He pointed out that Peres' remarks coincided with the building of more Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories and confiscation of land. He said that Israel procrastinates with the aim of obtaining a greater measure of normalization with the Arabs. He noted that Israel seeks to impose itself on the Arabs and to infiltrate and sabotage the Arab economy (takhribuhu). Ambassador 'Imran asserted that unless the peace is comprehensive, lasting, and just, then the Arab countries are urged to halt all forms of normalization with Israel.

Regarding Warren Christopher's Middle East tour due to begin on Thursday [14 December], 'Adnan 'Imran said: We have plenty of reasons to believe that Christopher's regional tour this time might be one of the most important tours he has made, since it represents real pressure to attain peace in the region.

He pointed out that the Syrian position has been clear since the beginning of the peace process and is based on international legality and the need for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. He asserted that Syria will never abandon its rights. Ambassador 'Imran blamed Israel for obstructing the peace with Syria so far. He referred to Shim'on Peres' assumption of power coming with statements noting that he is ready to discuss the entire peace file and that he understands Syria's position. 'Imran concluded by declaring that Syria is willing to deal with a peace founded on the full implementation of UN resolutions and that it believes it has never been and never will be an obstacle to peace.

[In a related, Cairo-datelined item, Paris AFP in English at 1645 GMT on 13 December adds the following: "The Arab League criticized Turkey on Wednesday [13 December] for 'monopolizing' the waters of the Euphrates river which flows into Iraq and Syria.

["Deputy Secretary General 'Adnan 'Imran expressed the League's 'deep worry over Turkey's policies which ignore Arabs rights over the Euphrates' water.' Turkey 'continues to monopolize Syria and Iraq's water and to cause serious pollution to the environment,' 'Imran told journalists.

["Ankara's policy 'is a grave violation of water sharing accords signed between Syria and Turkey in August 1993 and the commitment made by Turkey to solve this problem before the end of the year,' he said. In July 1992 Turkey opened the 25 billion dollar Ataturk dam on the Euphrates, raising protests from its downriver neighbors, Iraq and Syria.

["'Imran said the League had received an official protest from Damascus against Ankara's water policies."]

Arab Draft Accord on Nuclear-Free Mideast Detailed

LD1412111795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
0740 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Dec — The Saudi News Agency [SPA] has learned in Cairo from informed

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sources at the Arab League General Secretariat that the draft agreement to make the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction, which will be discussed by the Arab technical committee concerned with the weapons of mass destruction at its meeting at the Arab League headquarters next Monday, contains 16 articles dealing with the fundamental commitments of the member-states. The agreement also contains the establishment of a regional organization to administer the agreement and realize its aims and implement its provisions and basic principles relating to consultation, cooperation, and settlement of disputes between the member-states, and the introduction of amendments and the ratification of the agreement and withdrawal from it and the date when the agreement comes into effect. The sources pointed out that at a later stage and following the committee's approval, three protocols could be prepared. These will contain the technical aspects relating to the carrying out of an investigation and the prohibited activities in the nuclear, biological, and chemical spheres, and two annexes, one dealing with the security guarantees that the five permanent member-states of the UN Security Council will provide and the second containing the undertakings of the states neighboring the states that are members of the treaty [as received] and that are regarded as an indivisible part of the treaty.

The informed sources said the committee will complete at its second meeting the discussion of the elements of the draft agreement that has been prepared by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry in cooperation with the Arab League. They pointed out that the committee, which has been set up in accordance with a decision by the Arab League, had held its first meeting on 14 and 15 February 1995. The sources pointed out that the draft agreement to make the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction, which contains 16 articles, contains the following: article one concerns the definition of the phrase "the region of the Middle East" as being the territories under the control or jurisdiction of the member-states of the Arab League in addition to Israel and Iran.

Article two says the contracting states of the agreement shall undertake to ban and prohibit the following activities taking place on their territories or the territories under their jurisdiction: the development or production or testing or use or storing or possession or proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, directly or indirectly — "on behalf of a second party" — and not to assist or encourage or instigate or permit any other party to indulge in the activities prohibited by this agreement; the member-states undertake also to dismantle and destroy all weapons of mass destruction in their possession or under their control and to transform the related establishments and installations for peaceful activities after the destruction of parts that may lead to the production of such weapons, and not to make any military preparations for the use of weapons of mass destruction.

The draft agreement adds that the member-states of this treaty shall undertake to confine the use of the materials, equipment, installations, and establishments relating to the weapons of mass destruction that are under their control to peaceful activities.

Article three says all member-states shall submit to the organization [as received] the following two declarations:

1. A separate declaration concerning nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, each on its own; and the installations for their production, in accordance with the protocols referrred to previously;

2. A declaration containing information and statements relating to the materials subject to the guarantees in accordance with this treaty, and also the specifications and the equipment and installations and establishments linked to the application of the treaty according to certain protocols.

Article four concentrates on organization. The member-states shall according to this agreement set up an organization to realize the objectives and implement the provisions of the agreement, including those provisions relating to the carrying out of an investigation to establish whether a member-state is abiding by the agreement, to provide facilities for meeting whereby member-states can consult and cooperate among themselves, and to enlist the member-states of the agreement into this organization. According to this article a general assembly, an executive board, and a technical secretariat — being apparatuses of the organization — shall be set up; the jurisdictions and tasks of each one of these shall be outlined as per the charter of the organization.

Article five concerns the conducting of an investigation: the member-states of this treaty undertake to cooperate with the organization to facilitate the implementation of the activities of the investigation of materials, equipment, installations, and establishments subject to guarantees as per the treaty; the organization should obtain the approval of the parties when choosing the inspectors of these states; when a state repeats its rejection of the inspectors chosen by the organization, the matter shall be discussed by the executive board. The activities of the investigation outlined in this treaty and its protocols shall be conducted with the minimum of interference; when the activities of the investigation are carried out

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according to this treaty the organization shall take into consideration technical developments in this connection.

Article six concerns consultation and cooperation and ascertaining the facts; the draft agreement proposes that the parties shall consult among themselves either directly or through the organization regarding any issue that may be raised regarding the implementation. Any member-state has the right to ask the executive board to assist in clarifying any situation that is deemed ambiguous or suspicious, and all member-states shall do everything they can to solve any ambiguity that may give rise to suspicion with regard to any member-state not abiding by the treaty. There is nothing in the treaty that may affect the right of any two or more member-states to reach agreement among themselves on reciprocal arrangements for conducting inspections or clarifying suspicious issues.

Article seven concerns the measures to be taken to rectify a certain situation, and compliance with the agreement. The draft agreement proposes the suspension of the rights and privileges of any member-state if it is asked to take measures to rectify a certain situation that constitutes a violation and does not do so within the time specified; it is recommended that collective measures should be taken according to international law if severe damage is inflicted upon the treaty's objectives as a result of prohibited actions.

Article eight concerns the settlement of disputes that may arise; the draft agreement proposes that when a dispute arises between two or more parties regarding the interpretation or application of the treaty, the parties shall consult to find a settlement by way of negotiations or any other means chosen by the parties, including the apparatuses created by the treaty, or to refer the entire matter to the International Court of Justice.

Article nine: any state can propose amendments to this treaty; the treaty shall be deemed not to have a time limit, and each member-state shall have the right to withdraw from it if it deems that exceptional events relating to the treaty have subjected its supreme national interests to danger; the signing of the treaty shall be open to all the states concerned before the treaty comes into effect; this treaty and its three protocols, and its two annexes, and the charter of the organization are to be ratified by the member-states, and any member-state that does not sign the treaty before it comes into effect can join it at any time; no reservation shall be submitted regarding the provisions of the treaty. This treaty, whose texts in the English, French, Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian languages, shall be equally valid in law and shall be deposited with the UN secretary general.

Islamic Affairs

Velayati Meets With Counterparts at OIC Meeting

LD1212095095 Tehran IRNA in English 0857 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Conakry, Guinea, Dec. 12, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met separately here on Monday [11 December] with his counterparts from Afghanistan, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Gambia and Burkina Faso on the sidelines of the 23rd meeting of foreign ministers of member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Bilateral issues between Iran and the Islamic countries as well as regional cooperation within the framework of OIC and the international community, were reviewed in the meetings and views were exchanged in this regard.

Afghan State Minister for Foreign Affairs Najibollah Lafra'i in his talk with Velayati, said that Iran's attempts to put an end to the Afghan conflict, establish security and effect the reconstruction of Afghanistan, have been "friendly and valuable."

Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Alusine Fofanah expressed satisfaction over the expansion of his country's ties with Iran and invited Velayati to visit Sierra Leone.

Dubbing Iran-Sierra Leone cooperation in the areas of fisheries and fishing as "fruitful", both sides acknowledged the significance of mutual cultural cooperation and called for the promotion of relations in various dimensions.

Expressing concern over the differences between Uganda and Sudan, Velayati termed the continuity and intensification of these types of disputes as 'harmful' for the two countries.

Gambian Foreign Minister Alhaji Omar Sey in his meeting with Velayati, underlined his country's willingness to further cooperate with the Islamic Republic and hoped that bilateral ties would be expanded.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 5 Dec

NC1312120795

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 5 December edition of the Arabic language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Picture of Prophet Muhammad's Tomb Said Fake
2. Muslims Urged To End Conflict in Afghanistan
3. Arabization of Science Demanded

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4. Candidates' Attitude, Election Violence Deplored
5. Artificial Insemination For Married Couples Said Allowed
6. Partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina Criticized

PICTURE OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S TOMB SAID FAKE

An unattributed 500-word report on pages 1 and 21 comments on what it describes as a "fake" picture of the Prophet Muhammad's tomb said to be distributed free of charge at unnamed mosques. A copy of the picture, described as being of "unknown origin," is published next to the report on page 1. The picture features two tombs: one of Prophet Muhammad and the other of his companion and first caliph Abu-Bakr al-Siddiq. The tombs are covered by a black cloth and are decorated with brass ornaments.

The report notes that "officials at the al-Azhar's Fatwa Committee as well as the Saudi Embassy in Cairo concur that the pictures is fake and of dubious origin." They believe that the purpose of distributing these pictures is to confuse Muslims. The report cites remarks by an al-Azhar scholar, who gives a detailed description of what the prophet's tomb looks like in reality. He dismisses the picture as the "imagination of a painter who has never gone to Medina to see the holy chamber for himself or read anything about it." The purpose of the picture, he adds, is to "cast doubt on Islamic facts and make a profit out of it." An unnamed Saudi Embassy official is quoted as saying that the Prophet's tomb does not resemble the picture, which he described as a "plot against Islam," noting that nobody is allowed to enter the tomb or take a picture of it.

MUSLIMS URGED TO END CONFLICT IN AFGHANISTAN

The "tragic developments" in Afghanistan during the past few days, in which "hundreds" were killed or wounded, show that the "Afghan mujahidin" have nothing to do with Islam and have even become a "plague" against Islam, writes Basyuni al-Halawani in an approximately 500-word column on page 6. Al-Halawani notes that Muslims all over the world came to the rescue of the Afghan mujahidin when their country came under "Soviet" aggression until they attained victory. However, he adds, once free of the Soviet occupation the mujahidin were "dominated" by personal interests and ambitions. As a result, the state collapsed and the people paid the price in the battle of "personal gains" among the warring Afghan mujahidin, who have tarnished Islam's image more than its enemies did. The writer argues that we must not blame the "wars of liquidation" in Afghanistan on foreign hands, for all the crimes being committed in the country are made by the Muslim mujahidin themselves. Urging Islamic states to act to put an end to the "bloody conflict" in the country, the writer asks: "How long will some Islamic states provide backing and weapons to some Afghan factions to kill the Muslim Afghan people?"

ARABIZATION OF SCIENCE DEMANDED

Dr. Ahmad Fu'ad Basha, in an approximately 600-word column on page 6, notes that the main problem facing the education system in most Arab countries is the use of a foreign language in instruction and the Arab students' inability to seek and grasp knowledge in their mother tongue. Accordingly, an objective analysis of the problem will point to the "importance of Arabizing science and education as an urgent cultural necessity" to emphasize "national identity." The writer points out that time must not be wasted any more in "futile argument" about the necessity of Arabization. Instead, practical measures must be taken to bring about this goal using sound methods.

CANDIDATES' ATTITUDE, ELECTION VIOLENCE DEPLORED

Majdi Salim, in an approximately 600-word column on page 10, notes that what has happened in several constituencies in the first round of elections, including campaigning, voting, vote counting, and election results "have nothing to do with democracy." He notes that voting was "clean" in several constituencies where voters were free to choose who they wanted and the results indeed reflected the desire of voters without pressure. This, he adds, is what President Mubarak wanted the election to be.

However, in several other constituencies money and violence reigned supreme. He asks: "Is a candidate who finds such means legitimate to become a representative of the people in the People's Assembly qualified to bear this trust? Will a candidate who buys votes be able to serve the interests of those who voted for him later on? The answer is certainly not," he adds. He notes that the fault in this "crime" is clear, beginning with the voters who failed to cast their votes and left it to other people to vote for them, those who accepted a "price" for their votes, the supporters who were paid for their support, and the "thugs" who engaged in violence. Concluding, he asks: "What makes a candidate spend a six-figure sum to get elected? I suppose the answer is clear to everyone and doesn't need to be specified."

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ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION FOR MARRIED COUPLES SAID ALLOWED

An approximately 500-word report on page 17 views the technological "revolution" in the field fertilization and reproduction and the advanced methods used to treat "infertility" among women and men. This problem is said to exist in 20 percent of marriages, according to Dr. Muhammad Fayyad, head of the Egyptian Society for Fertilization and Reproduction. Dr. Fayyad notes that it is necessary to treat infertility while adhering to the principles of the Islamic religion. Toward that end, there is a need to follow certain constraints. For instance, artificial insemination must be for married couples during their lifetime. "Donation" of "sperm" or "eggs" to unmarried people or the use of "surrogate" mothers are not allowed.

PARTITION OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA CRITICIZED

'Adil Dayf, in an approximately 400-word column on page 20 entitled "Another Andalusia," notes that after the "loss of Andalusia and Palestine" an "international conspiracy" has resulted in an agreement to partition Bosnia-Herzegovina, an agreement similar to the partition plan for Palestine. Dayf notes that the U.S. Administration has "imposed" this partition on Bosnia- Herzegovina amid Islamic "weakness" and European "scheming." Analyzing the "new conspiracy" involved in the Dayton Agreement, the writer notes that the Serbs have obtained "half of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina" on which they will later announce their independent state or join Serbia if they wish. This agreement, he adds, has completely "finished off" the idea of an independent Muslim state in the Balkans. In the meantime, the Croats are preparing to seize what is left of the Bosnian territories. He points out that the agreement shows that the Americans and Europeans "always stand against the Muslims."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 8 Dec

NC1312144495

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 8 December edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Petitions Against Election Results, Vote Rigging Reported
2. Labor's Husayn Says One-Party System Is Back, Warns of Violence
3. Subterranean Jail Said Under Construction in Nile Delta
4. Shukri Says Government Rigged Vote, Defamed Opposition
5. Political Cartoons of Elections Described
6. Writer Rules Out Cooperation With West, Foresees Clash

PETITIONS AGAINST ELECTION RESULTS, VOTE RIGGING REPORTED

The 8 December issue was published just after the 6 December runoff elections in which nearly three-fourths of the People's Assembly seats were contested. The issue is mostly devoted to reports and comments on these elections. Most of page 1 is taken up by a story on the Higher Administrative Court's decision to refer petitions against the parliamentary election's results in 109 constituencies to the State Commissioner's Authority to prepare a report on them. AL-SHA'B's item says that the Court rejected the interior minister's request to halt legal action on these petitions, which challenge the election results in constituencies spread over the Cairo, Ismailia, al-Mansurah, Tanta, Qina, Asyut, and Alexandria Governorates. It adds that more than 100 petitioners obtained copies of the Higher Administrative Court's decision which, the report says, bans the Interior Ministry from announcing the results of the second-round runoff elections.

A large part of the 2,000-word report, written by Yusuf Sa'd, Subhi Buhayri, and "AL-SHA'B correspondents in the governorates," discusses "police suppression" of the "strongest public reaction ever seen in Egypt protesting the falsification of the people's wishes."

The story then details election-related violence in various constituencies, including clashes among supporters of rival candidates and between police and citizens and the arrests made in various areas. It gives a total casualty figure of 61 dead and 1313 injured and says that more than 2,400 persons were detained in the process.

The page 1 report is accompanied by three large photos: a four- column photo showing demonstrators brandishing spent tear gas canisters allegedly fired by the police during demonstrations, a three-column photo showing three young men looking at a tear gas grenade that had fallen near them in the street, and a three-column photo of a weeping woman in a chador-like garment but unveiled, holding up an empty tear gas canister.

The story has the following banner headline: "Courts Confirm Government Illegitimacy." The following boldprint headlines also appear: "State Council Nullifies Election Results in Half the Constituencies," "Toll of

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the Massacre: 61 dead, 1313 Injured, 2,400 Detained," "Demonstrations in Disuq, Mashtul, Kafr Shukr, al-Hawamidiyah, Damietta, and Abu al-Matamir."

Details on reported election rigging by the ruling National Democratic Party [NDP] and election violence are recounted in many other items of the same theme on the inside pages. The following lists the articles' headlines and gives a brief summary:

"In al-Hawamidiyah: Population Rises Up Against Election Rigging by Police" is the title of an 800-word report on page 2 that charges security forces with forcing candidates to switch to the NDP side and then helping them win by rigging the vote. The report says the town's citizens rioted and burned a large portrait of President Mubarak. The police subdued the riots and made arrests.

"In Kirdasah, Awsim, and Shibin al-Qanatir Constituencies: The NDP Uses Gangster and Forger Methods" is the headline of a 1000-word item on page 2 that discusses strong-arm tactics by the ruling party, including using men armed with sticks and clubs, to secure victory for its candidates.

"In al-Basatin and al-Ma'adi: Rigging in Broad Daylight... and Preventing the Candidate from Entering the Polling Station" is the headline of a 400-word item that says that in this particular constituency the "vote riggers" stuffed the ballot boxes with votes for NDP candidates at 4:00 a.m. on election day so that the favored candidates had won even before the polls opened.

"In Shibin-al-Qanatir: Police Pursue Voters With Tear Gas Grenades" is the title of a 350-word report saying that the police arrested 51 representatives of the Islamic alliance candidates in this constituency on the eve of the runoff election, rigged the ballot, and dispersed the voters with tear gas.

"In Naj' Hammadi: Sedition Between the 'Arab and al-Hawwarah" is the title of a 400-word report on page 2 that recounts large-scale arguments between the 'Arab and al-Hawwarah tribes in the city of Naj' Hamadi in support of their candidates. The report says that the fighting left several dead or wounded and that the police failed to take sufficient precautionary measures to avert the clashes.

Other headlines on page 2 are: "A Vote-Rigging Fest in al-Juwayli Constituency," "In Bandar al-Mahallah Constituency: Police Rig Vote," "In Qina: Six Dead, 15 Wounded."

On pages 3, 4, and 8 there are similar stories of vote rigging and government strong-arm tactics.

LABOR'S HUSAYN SAYS ONE-PARTY SYSTEM IS BACK, WARNS OF VIOLENCE

In a 3,500-word article on page 5, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn describes government conduct during the recent People's Assembly elections as a "coup d'etat" that "completed one phase of our contemporary political history, allowing another one to begin."

Husayn notes that former President Anwar al-Sadat, who amended the Constitution to permit a multiparty system, soon tired of the democratic experiment and adopted harsh measures—"the famous September measures which ended, as we know, in his death"—against his opponents in 1981.

He says that on his assumption of power, President Mubarak permitted an "incomplete multiparty system" to arise, restricted the opposition's role to publishing newspapers and operating from their offices only, rather than on a grassroots level, and rigged the parliamentary elections of 1984 and 1987.

Husayn notes that the Islamic awakening, however, made a more developed form of pluralism necessary, especially to battle the spreading corruption. This, he points out, the government and the NDP were not willing to accept and therefore, instead of merely rigging this year's elections, they in effect "abolished" them.

Husayn uses the word "riddah"—apostasy from Islam—to describe the government's reported control of the ballot and its earlier sponsoring of legislation to control professional associations and the press. He declares, however, that while "riddah" was "difficult" in al-Sadat's day, it is now impossible.

Noting that the country's Higher Administrative Court has accepted petitions against the election results in many constituencies, he says the government's disregard of these petitions will result in popular violence, not from the Islamic parties and trends, like the Labor Party and the Muslim Brotherhood, who avoided violence during the elections, but from the general public.

Husayn attacks the country's official media's contention that the elections were honest as follows:

"The official media speaks to us day and night about the elections' impartiality. O rulers, we are not asking you to have shame, this is not one of your virtues, but do not provoke the people any more. Also, do not provoke us by boasting about your opponents' defeats and the weaknesses of the other political parties and forces. Why was your coup d'etat and your use of armed force necessary if we were so weak and so repudiated by the nation and the voters?

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"Do not also describe your criminal coup as a blow against the 'pro-terrorist' Islamic trend. We know you show special enmity to the Islamic trend because of what it represents and what it calls for. As we always say: Your hostility to us is not based on the above claim. Had the Islamic trend been weak, you would not have shown it so much interest. On the contrary, your efforts are focused on fighting it because it is the strongest trend and the party most capable of ending your tyranny and injustice.

"We have always said: Had your war been only against the Islamic trend and not democracy, it would have been marked by an effort to give greater freedom of movement and more opportunities to nationalist, liberal, and leftist trends. But no, you are against everyone. You cling to power at the expense of Egypt as a whole and its future, may God's hand be against you. We have always pointed out this fact and now our declarations have been proven true. Your coup has openly restored the one-party system."

SUBTERRANEAN JAIL SAID UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN NILE DELTA

On page 4, a 1,000-word article by Muhammad al-Murshidi discusses an underground jail that the government is reportedly building near the Nile Delta city of Damanhur. The writer says that he discovered this fact while travelling from Alexandria to Cairo. The jail, he says, will be 15 meters deep and cover a subterranean area of 30 acres.

Al-Murshidi says he understands that "the nature of the regime" makes more jails a security necessity but asks why they cannot be built above ground to save the immense expense of building underground. He says if the reason is to muffle the screams of prisoners being tortured then "this is possible by insulating the walls of normal prisons."

He writes: "As much as I hate the tyrannical ruler I still pity him because he has lost his understanding. He thinks that he is the master of the present and future simply because he controls the organs of oppression and believes that he is undefeatable. He has forgotten the power of God. Let him know that God is the master of the soldiers of heaven and earth and that a tiny virus can devastate the strongest tyrant. I tell the one who ordered this jail built: Do not think it is beyond God's power to imprison you in it one day soon."

SHUKRI SAYS GOVERNMENT RIGGED VOTE, DEFAMED OPPOSITION

A 1,200-word article on pages 1 and 8 by Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri says that the government rigged the People's Assembly elections by providing the polling stations with false lists of voters that contained fictitious names. Many voters who came to cast their ballots could not find their names even when they toured all the polling stations in their constituency. Their votes were lost and the ballot boxes were filled with the votes of imaginary voters.

Shukri refers to the government's declaration that the opposition parties lost because they were weak. He says they were weakened by the government's restrictions banning free assembly, conferences, and seminars and indeed any political party activity conducted outside the parties' offices. He blames government circles for defaming opposition leaders, including himself, and accusing them of being hostile to Egyptian interests.

He warns that if the government refuses to comply with court verdicts to accept petitions challenging the results of the elections, a major "scandal" will result and will represent a total constitutional collapse.

POLITICAL CARTOONS OF ELECTIONS DESCRIBED

The following are descriptions of two of several political cartoons appearing in the newspaper; both are on page 6.

Under the heading "Runoff Elections Today," the first shows a caricature of a sly-looking old woman with a smirk on her face calling down the following blessing on her son, who is wearing a prison-striped T-shirt, an eye mask, and carrying a key chain and a flashlight:

"O 'Atris my son, may God provide you with good people to help you today and may you win the immunity that so much preoccupies your mind. God is generous and capable."

Note: 'Atris is a comic sort of first name in popular Egyptian culture, usually given to gangster types and other unsavory characters in movies and satirical literature.

The second cartoon shows an entity, shaped like a heavy truncheon with a studded head, sitting on a throne-like seat on a dais. No narrative is provided.

WRITER RULES OUT COOPERATION WITH WEST, FORESEES CLASH

A 2,700-word article in the newspaper's "dialogue" section on page 11 by Dr. Muhammad Muru discusses the relationship between Western and Islamic cultures and dismisses any prospect for a merger or profound interaction between them.

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In the article, entitled "The Future Is for Islam," Muru says that Western culture lacks values and is in decline. He cites several Western and non-Western authors and academics to support this view.

Muru rejects the possibility of interaction between Western culture and Islam because the first is "based on paganism" and the second is "founded on belief in one God." He says that merger between two such diverse cultures will not work, just as the grafting of a branch from one tree with another tree of a vastly different species will fail:

"Actually, the possibility of merger and interaction between Islamic culture and Western culture is impossible. Any serious study of the foundations on which the family of Islamic culture and the family of Western culture were built proves beyond doubt that each has a different path and a different system."

He points out that Western culture itself will not allow Muslims to merge with it as equals but as subordinates.

The writer advocates cooperation while maintaining the independence of each culture: "The only possible relationship between the Islamic and Western cultures, even if only theoretically, is cooperation based on the independence of each, without either trying to dominate, wrong, or rob the other. Islam certainly welcomes cooperation and advocates it in the context of mutual respect and equal relations. But will Western culture agree to stop its thievery, injustice, and racism for the sake of this cooperation?"

He calls for acquiring the physical sciences from the West without accepting the value systems attached to them. He declares that since subservience to the West is unacceptable and genuine interaction is impossible, the unavoidable result is confrontation:

"Therefore the battle is inevitable. The only open course is confrontation or death. To confront and die is preferable to submission because confrontation that ends in defeat may yet allow one to endure and preserve the good seeds under the soil until such a time when they will bear fruit again in a later stage."

He warns against infiltration of Islamic society by Western cultural influences, calling this the greatest danger because it undermines the Islamic will to confront. He notes that although the West is very strong now, "Western culture carries within it numerous weaknesses that we must confront and exploit."

He concludes: "We must endure and wait until these weaknesses in the body of Western culture produce an internal explosion that will cause its collapse; this is expected, God willing."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Christopher To Meet in Jericho 16 Dec

JN1312162195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Dec 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has announced that President 'Arafat will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Jericho next Saturday [16 December].

Abu-Rudaynah said President 'Arafat and Christopher will discuss latest developments of the peace process, especially the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles on redeployment and takeover of the remaining parts of the West Bank by the National Authority.

'Arafat and Christopher will also discuss bilateral relations, and the U.S. role in supporting the peace process. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Announces Candidacy for President

NC1412100395 Paris AFP in English 1000 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Dec 14 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat put himself forward here Thursday [14 December] as a candidate for the post of president of a Palestinian executive in self-rule elections set for January 20.

'Urayqat on Elections, Jerusalem Constituency

JN1312175595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1226 GMT 13 Dec 95

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, PA minister of local government and acting chairman of the Central Elections Committee, by Yusuf al-Qazzaz; place and date not given; from the "Today's Events" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Qazzaz] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government and acting chairman of the Local Elections Committee: Good afternoon.

['Urayqat] Good afternoon.

[Al-Qazzaz] Dr. 'Urayqat: The Palestinian committee charged with monitoring the elections has asked the Central Elections Committee to extend for two more weeks the time limit for voter registration. Is it possible to extend the time limit for registration?

['Urayqat] It is true that our employees are no longer knocking on doors to register eligible voters. Nevertheless, the registration process has not been declared completed. We have said that the regional election offices in

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16 constituencies will keep their doors open for all people who have not yet registered their names. They can go immediately to these offices to register their names. We have also said that there are three offices operating in the Jerusalem constituency. People can go to these offices to register their names in the voter lists. We have not closed the door for voter registration. The door is open, and will remain so until the final voter lists are published.

[Al-Qazzaz] Dr. 'Urayqat: Is the level of registration in Jerusalem reassuring?

['Urayqat] As a matter of fact, there have been increasingly positive signs in this regard. The number of eligible voters who have registered their names has thus far exceeded 76,000. Given that the figures for the past two days are not accounted for, the number could increase to 80,000. We would like to say that the door for voter registration is open at three stations; these are: the al-Ummah College, the al-'Ayzariyah School, and the Election Center in al-Shayyah. We have urged our people in the Jerusalem constituency, who have always been marked by heightened awareness, high sense of patriotism, great love for the holy shrines, and belief in the Palestinian and Arabic identity of the holy city. We believe that their registration at these stations is extremely important. When voters living in Rafah, Khan Yunus, Jericho, Janin, or Nabulus register their names at registration offices, they are exercising a personal right. On the other hand, the Jerusalem constituency voters exercise a personal right as well as a collective right on behalf of us all when they register their names at registration offices. Hence, I would like to seize this opportunity to urge our people to head for these offices to register their names in the first Palestinian legislative elections, in which Jerusalem will be represented. Their participation will not compromise or jeopardize their economic, political, demographic, or pension interests. All the tendencious rumors circulated to this effect are meant to achieve ulterior motives. With regard to voter registration in Jerusalem, the provisions of the agreement with Israel are clear. The Palestinian residents of Jerusalem will not be harmed by registering their names as voters.

[Al-Qazzaz] This is a national issue that concerns the fate and future of the city of Jerusalem, which is our most precious asset.

['Urayqat] I have always said, and so has His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, that true peace will not be consummated until Jerusalem is liberated. There will be no complete peace without Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem. Jerusalem, just like the remaining Palestinian territory occupied in 1967, is occupied territory. Consequently, when Jerusalem voters exercise their rights by registering for the elections, they will be exercising personal rights as well as collective rights on behalf of us all.

[Al-Qazzaz] Dr. 'Urayqat: The candidates' nominations for election will be accepted as of tomorrow, 14 December. Has this date remained firm?

['Urayqat] This date has remained firm. The Election Law is now being circulated in election constituencies. So, whoever likes to run for election should go to the election constituencies' offices and get a copy of the Election Law. We published and distributed 20,000 copies of the Election Law yesterday evening. The law is clear and unequivocal. In this regard, I would like to urge those who have started their propaganda campaigns by publishing advertisements in the papers and elsewhere to halt this, because they can be taken to task. Election propaganda campaigns must not start prior to 30 December. I hope that all brother voters and candidates will comply with the pertinent statutes, laws, and provisions. The candidates can file their nominations for the elections tomorrow. They have until 22 December to do so.

[Al-Qazzaz] What are the administrative procedures regarding this issue?

['Urayqat] Voters who want to run for election must first be registered in the voter list in the election constituency they want to run in. They must go to their constituency office and obtain guidelines regarding the regulations they need to comply with, regardless of whether they represent parties or party coalitions, or whether they are running as independents.

[Al-Qazzaz] Dr. 'Urayqat: One of the most important reasons for postponing the date set for accepting nominations from 10 to 14 December is to allow popular groupings as well as nationalist and Islamic political forces to take part in the elections.

['Urayqat] That is true. As a matter of fact, this is the only reason. The date set for accepting nominations was postponed to allow the ongoing dialogue between the [Palestinian] Authority [PA] and our brothers within the Islamic and nationalist groups to yield fruit. It is our hope that this dialogue will consecrate and promote the Palestinian national unity at this critical and fateful point in time. All parties are unanimous that the real negotiations will begin on 4 May 1996, when the Jerusalem issue, settlements, borders, refugees, and the right to self-determination will be discussed. Given all this, we would like to tell our brothers that there is nothing in the agreement and the Election Law that prevents any Palestinian or any party or faction from

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taking part in these elections. They can take part in these elections in accordance with their own platforms no matter what. As we have said, the date set for accepting nominations was postponed only to allow this dialogue to yield fruit. It is my hope that this dialogue will be crowned with success.

[Al-Qazzaz] Thank you Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government and acting chairman of the Central Elections Committee.

['Urayqat] Thank you. You are most welcome.

Decree Invites People To Elect Legislative Council

JN1412072795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat issued a presidential decree on holding the elections. The decree calls on the Palestinian people in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip to elect the chairman of the executive authority and members of the legislative council on 20 January in accordance with the final lists of voters and candidates. The decree also calls for a nine-day period, begining today, for nominating candidates for positions in the legislative council and chairmanship of the National Authority.

'Ashrawi To Form Independent Electoral List

TA1212193595 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 11 Dec 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem — AL-MANAR has learned that Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, one of the candidates in the Jerusalem electoral district, is holding consultations and contacts with a number of the city's well-known figures with the aim of establishing an independent list which will run in the legislative elections slated for 20 Jenuary.

According to information received, this list will include one of the Fatah leaders in the Jerusalem area.

Dr. 'Ashrawi's will be one of many lists competing in Jerusalem. The most prominent one is that of Fatah, which these days is holding internal elections to choose the movement's candidates for the legislative elections.

Frayj Urges 18 Dec Israeli Pullout From Bethlehem

JN1212212295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ilyas Frayj, minister of tourism and antiquities, has called on the Israeli Government to withdraw its forces from Bethlehem before 18 December. In a news conference at Bethlehem Municipality this evening, Frayj said that such a step on Israel's part should allow enough time to prepare for Christmas.

Frayj said President Yasir 'Arafat's participation in the Christmas celebrations confirm the Palestinian people's eagerness to proceed with the peace process, and reinforces brotherly Islamic-Christian cohesion in the city. The news conference was attended by representatives of 50 media agencies from around the world.

Hamas Spokesman on Elections, Dialogue With PA

NC1312120895 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 7-13 Dec 95 p 5

[Report on interview with Hamas official spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by Samia Nkrumah in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinians in the 16 constituencies of the West Bank and Gaza Strip will go to the polls on 20 January 1996 to elect an 83-member autonomy council as well as an executive president

At least, some will. Others, including supporters of Hamas, Islamic jihad, and the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Libation of Palestine, will boycott the elections.

In an exclusive interview with Al-Ahram Weekly, Ibrahim Ghawshah the official spokesman for Hamas in Amman over the last five years, dismissed rumours that the Islamist movement would participate in the elections: "In its legislative and executive bodies Hamas took the irrevocable decision to boycott the elections. Anyone who claims otherwise speaks for himself and not the movement," said Ghawshah.

"Over 4 million Palestinians representing 70 per cent or two thirds of the population dispersed all over the world, will not be able to vote. How can we support these elections? There are over 5,000 prisoners, including 30 women, imprisoned under painful conditions. There are around 4,000 Islamists in prison. Many have gone on hunger strike," he added.

Speaking from the office of the Islamic Action Front bloc in Amman, Ghawshah said that Hamas emphatically rejects the Oslo I and II agreements between the PLO and the Israeli occupying forces and "any of its tools, including the elections". He believes that these agreements have given superficial self-rule to the Palestinian population without sovereignty, independence, self-determination or statehood. For Ghawshah the elections will be run under the hegemony of the Israeli occupation and the elected council will not have any real control as its decisions will be subject to an Israeli veto.

At the same time, Hamas favours a democratic system but under different conditions. "We are for fair elections which are free of political restrictions and which include

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Palestinians everywhere. We are prepared to support any parliament elected under free elections. But we believe that till today the international community has not given similar rights to Palestinians as were given to black South Africans before the election of Nelson Mandela," said Ghawshah.

Then why has Hamas agreed in principle to the formation of the National Islamic Salvation Party (NISP) at this critical moment? According to Ghawshah there is no conflict. The NISP will not take part in the January elections.

The confusion arose because the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has made it mandatory that voters participating in municipal elections must also be included in the voters lists for the January elections. "A considerable number of the one million registered voters you heard about are Islamists and they will not vote in January but will do so in three months' time in the municipal elections."

Hamas has never rejected active participation in elections to syndicate bodies, chambers of commerce, municipalities, and other bodies that offer direct services to the Palestinian population, insisted Ghawshah.

The proposed party, whose official launch date remains unknown, will challenge the PNA to produce tangible results from its agreements with Israel. According to Ghawshah, the NISP will use popular and peaceful methods to serve the Palestinian population and will not be linked to armed resistance activities. Clearly though, its other function is to ensure that Hamas is not isolated from Palestinians in the self-rule areas and to minimize the benefits the PNA may derive from the elections in the short run.

The relationship between the PNA and Hamas is still an uneasy one, but attempts are being made to defuse tension "especially in Gaza due to the arrests and repression of leaders of the movement by the PNA. Fifty Hamas leaders are in prison but we are holding on to Palestinian national unity," said Ghawshah. He explained that this belief in the unity of the Palestinians encouraged Hamas to agree to hold talks with the PNA in Khartoum at the beginning of October.

Ghawshah said that Hamas subsequently sent two calls to Yasir 'Arafat to speed up the dialogue but despite the PLO leader's promise that the next meeting will be held in Egypt "so far no invitation has been forthcoming from Cairo". The delay doesn't appear to be accidental according to Ghawshah. "We've noticed a lack of enthusiasm from the PNA regarding the continuation of a dialogue and my hunch is that the PNA brought up the idea of a dialogue as propaganda to facilitate redeployment and elections," he said.

Many believe that after this month's redeployment and the January elections 'Arafat will be in a stronger position against the opposition, especially Hamas. "Don't forget that it is Rabin who requested this dialogue and it is he who put pressure on the PLO to conduct the dialogue with us. However, in Rabin's absence the Zionist pressure on the PLO seems to have lost interest in dialogue," noted Ghawshah.

Ghawshah refuted reports that such contacts with the PNA are an indication that Hamas might consider ending its programme of active resistance to the Israeli occupation. Moreover, Hamas has cooperated with other opposition groups, namely the 10 factions which represent three main rejectionist trends based in Damascus: the Islamic, the leftist and the nationalists. They have issued joint statements regarding the boycott of the January elections. But admitted Ghawshah, "Hamas is not happy with the achievements of this coalition."

Yet rejectionism is only half the story. Can Hamas offer an alternative to the path being taken by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat? According to Ghawshah nothing is impossible, the occupation is temporary even if it lasts for years. "You must not only think in decades, but in centuries. Look at the defeat of colonialism. The Arab and Islamic weaknesses are also temporary," he added.

Ghawshah contends that Rabin's assassination is a portent of things to come in Israeli society. "Our resistance has speeded up the rise of contradictions within the Israeli society, and these will develop further until they fragment their society," he predicted.

The Islamic resistance, Ghawshah maintains, is focused on fighting the Zionist occupation inside Palestinian territory but not beyond. Hamas does not interfere in the infernal affairs of states. So far Hamas has offices in Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Sudan as well as Jordan. Ghawshah said that the movement has asked to have a political presence in Egypt as the latter has a great role to play in the Palestinian question, but so far this has not been possible.

Undoubtedly, Hamas's close relations with the Islamic movements in the rest of the world could further its cause. But as Ziyad Abu-'Amr wrote in his book Islamic Fundamentalism in the West Bank and Gaza published in 1994 this could also be a liability. The Islamic movement "mainly in Jordan and Egypt may for certain considerations restrain the Islamic movement in the Occupied Territories. Since the Islamic groups in the West Bank and Gaza lack decisionmaking authority, especially with regard to strategic matters, these groups

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may have to abide by decisions that are taken outside the Occupied Territories. Such decisions would take into account not only factors that are at play in the Occupied Territories, but also the circumstances and the interests of the Islamic movement in the region as a whole."

PA-Hamas Dialogue Said Off to 'Good Start'

LD1312123895 Tehran IRNA in English 1223 GMT 13 Dec 95

["Hamas Hopes Dialogue With PNA Will Succeed"—IRNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Dec. 13, IRNA — The much-heralded dialogue between the Palestine Authority (PNA) and the Palestinian Islamist organisation Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] got to a good start Wednesday [13 December] as the PNA released from its custody a leading Hamas figure, says Yad Abu Musamih.

Abu Musamih is due to travel to Sudanese capital Khartoum today along with two other Hamas representatives, 'Abd-al-Khaliq Al Natshe and Mohammad Abu Shama'a to hold talks with other Hamas leaders.

PNA chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night ordered the release of Abu Musamih, who was sentenced to jail in June by Arafat's military court to three years in jail for criticising the Oslo accords.

Gaza sources said leading PNA figures escorted Abu Musamih from jail to the home of Mahmud al-Zahhar, Hamas' spokesman.

Hamas has already received an official invitation from the Egyptian authorities to participate in the dialogue meeting with the PNA scheduled to start in Cairo on Saturday.

Hamas Team Leaves for Meetings With PA

JN1312160295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Dec 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza; from "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A delegation from the Hamas Movement left the homeland today for the Egyptian capital, Cairo, via the Rafah crossing point. The delegation members will meet with the Movement's leaders abroad in the Sudanese capital tomorrow, Thursday, for consultations. The meetings of the National Authority and Hamas delegations will begin on Saturday in Cairo. President 'Arafat will attend part of these meetings.

Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, an official in the Hamas Movement, said the movement is interested in arriving at an agreement with the National Authority. Al-Zahhar said the legislative elections and participation in these elections will be discussed during the meetings with the National Authority [NA; Palestinian Authority, PA] delegation.

The National Authority and Hamas delegations will seek to achieve national unity in order to build the homeland, especially at this critical phase in our people's life.

Hamas delegation to the talks comprise Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, Muhammad Sham'ah, Shaykh Sayyid Abu-Musamih, 'Abd-al-Fattah Dukhkhan, Jamil Hamami, Hasan Yusuf, and Jamal Salim.

Delegation to Cairo Dialogue With Hamas Named

JN1312202595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The national dialogue between the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will begin in Cairo on Saturday [16 December]. The dialogue is aimed at arriving at an agreement on the Hamas movement's participation in the upcoming Palestinian legislative elections.

The PNA delegation to the dialogue comprises al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency; Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council; Colonel Muhammad Dahlan, director of the Preventive Security in Gaza; Ziyad 'Abd-al-Fattah, head of the General Information Authority; Hasan'Asfur, director general of the Negotiations Department; Nabil 'Amr, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat; and Jamal Zaqqut, director general at the Civilian Affairs Ministry.

Former Hamas Member To Head National Dialogue Office

TA1212095095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Dec 95 p A4

[Report by 'Amira Hass]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Imad al-Faluji, a former prominent member of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], has been appointed to head the Gaza chapter of the National Dialogue Office sponsored and financed by the Palestine National Council [PNC]. Contacts aimed at establishing such an office had been going on for a long time. Al-Faluji's title and job, which were determined by Yasir 'Arafat and PNC Deputy Speaker Salim al-Za'nun, were disclosed only yesterday.

The appointment came the same day AL-NAHAR carried al-Faluji's surprising announcement about the indefinite closure of AL-WATAN, the weekly under his

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ownership which was considered Hamas' mouthpiece. Al-Faluji confirmed to journalists yesterday that he intends to run as an independent candidate in the elections to the Palestinian Authority [PA] council. These two announcements actually confirmed al-Faluji's formal departure from Hamas, which unofficial Hamas sources had been reporting in recent months.

Al-Faluji told journalists in Gaza that as part of his job in the National Dialogue Office he will continue to serve in an organized and official fashion the cause he had been espousing since his release from an Israeli prison a year and a half ago: promoting the internal Palestinian dialogue amid recognition of the changed reality and out of a desire "to build a healthy Palestinian society."

The sole role of the National Dialogue Office staff, which has not yet been selected, will be to sit as observers and advisers in the deliberations between the PA and other political and social forces, but it will not have to mediate between them.

Even though a Fatah internal circular announced already in the summer that al-Faluji was no longer considered a member of Hamas, his decision underscores the restlessness within the Islamic opposition. As far as Hamas is concerned, al-Faluji went farther than all other activists who are calling for recognition of the changes and the subsequent adaptation of political and practical decisions.

The establishment of the Islamic National Salvation Party by former prominent members of Hamas indicates that the approach calling for the adaptation of political activities to the changes brought on by the Oslo accords has been gaining considerable ground, although al-Faluji has gone one step further. 'Arafat has even given permission to the new party to publish its own paper.

Al-Faluji noted that he decided to run in the elections because "it is important that the PA council include a representative of the Islamic movement so it does not turn into a homogeneous entity." He added that he will continue to oppose the Oslo accords and that as a candidate and member of the council he will pursue the political line that "long-term peace will be possible only after an Israeli withdrawal from all of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, the evacuation of all the settlements, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

As for his journal, al-Faluji said the closure was motivated "by personal reasons," and added that he would reopen it in the future. In the year AL-WATAN was published it managed to get closed twice due to critical reports and commentaries, and its editors, including al-Faluji, were summoned for interrogation and even arrested.

Islamic Jihad Member on al-Shaqaqi, Peres, Rabin

NC1212170895 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 3 Dec 95 p 12

[First of unspecified number of installments on "exclusive" interview with Muhammad Abu-Jihad, representative of the Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine in Iran, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [ETTELA'AT] Should we anticipate any operations by the Islamic Jihad to avenge Dr. al-Shaqaqi's assassination?

[Abu-Jihad] Two days after Dr. al-Shaqaqi's burial, our brothers in the Islamic Jihad carried out two martyrdom operations that were not entirely successful. The first was an explosion planned for a bus carrying Zionist soldiers using 30 kg of incendiary material. However, due to pressure by the security forces and stringent protection, the plan was thwarted as the car exploded even before it could reach the bus. The other operations were also foiled a kilometer's distance from where they were to occur. We do not consider these retaliations enough and we will continue to put a priority on revenge for Dr. al-Shaqaqi's martyrdom.

Currently, the spirit of revenge and martyrdom-seeking is so strong that we do not have the power to rein it in. We are waiting for an opportunity to control this widespread sentiment by inflicting a massive blow to the Zionist enemy that will be of the same magnitude as the martyrdom of Dr. al-Shaqaqi. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Can you tell us something about the new Islamic Jihad secretary general, Dr. 'Abdallah?

[Abu-Jihad] Dr. 'Abdallah is one of the co-combatant brothers of Dr. al-Shaqaqi who participated in the establishment of the Islamic Jihad. He completed his studies in Economics in Cairo and then went to Gaza where he taught at the Islamic University. Later he went to study in England and then the United States, where completed his doctorate in Economic Sciences.

Dr. Ramadan is knowledgeable about the international situation and the problems confronting the Islamic world and is an extremely eloquent speaker. He will continue the line of leadership initiated by Dr. al-Shaqaqi and will pursue the Islamic Jihad trend in the occupied territories of Palestine in the same manner as his predecessor.

[ETTELA'AT] The most important event since Dr. al-Shaqaqi's martyrdom was the killing of Yitzhaq Rabin. What is your analysis of Rabin's assassination? What

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effect did this event have on the Middle East peace talks?

[Abu-Jihad] Like all the other oppressed nations, I also consider this event, which took place only three days after the burial of martyr al-Shaqaqi, an act of divine retribution. Why is it an act of divine retribution? Because Rabin and the Zionist government were euphoric and jubilant about the removal of the second person who posed a danger for Israel's security. The first one was the martyr Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi and the second was Dr. al-Shaqaqi.

They were all gloating that the second most important person had also been eliminated when their rejoicing turned into sorrow and mourning. Secondly, just as Dr. al-Shaqaqi was hit by three consecutive bullets, Rabin was also hit by three consecutive bullets and at the hands of a Jew. The news agencies have reported that he was a Mosad member. It was as if the Almighty wished to return the atmosphere of rejoicing to the oppressed and tyrannized and to instill the feeling of fear and intimidation in the hearts of the Zionists and tyrants. [passage omitted] I believe that Rabin's successor, Shim'on Peres, is a weak individual as Rabin was the product of the regime's military apparatus whose life was linked to the establishment of Israel's military apparatus. Rabin provided a balance between Israeli civil society and the military establishment of the Zionist regime.

Shim'on Peres, on the other hand, is a detestable individual from the perspective of Israel's military system and armed forces, as he was not raised among them. Therefore, it is possible that some other individual may emerge from Zionist society who may wield more power than Peres among the Zionists.

Peres also lacks any personal or moral clout in Israeli society and is not considered as an influential person there. He lacks leadership qualities. The repercussions of internal tensions in Israel may not be very perceptible now but we will witness the fallout and impact of them soon in the form of internal dissent and friction in Zionist society. [passage omitted]

Comments on Camp David, Egypt

NC1312113295 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 4 Dec 95 p 12

["Exclusive" interview with Muhammad Abu-Jihad, representative of the Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine in Iran, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [ETTELA'AT] Nationalist thinking was defeated in 1973, or rather in 1967 when the U.S. began its plan for the Middle East, and particularly for Egypt. This process continued until the Camp David accord was signed. The following questions are on this subject:

1. In view of the speed in which Egypt compromised with Israel and in light of the developments in the Middle East after the Madrid talks, will Egypt retain the primary role among the Middle East Arab countries?

2. Were Palestinian prospects from the Camp David accord better than from the Oslo accord?

3. In view of the developments following the Madrid conference, has the stigma of a compromise with Israel been removed from the Arab world?

[Abu-Jihad] [passage omitted] Despite the fact that there has been aggression against our homeland, our religious rights have been trampled upon, and our various schools of thought suffered a setback in 1967 all these were incorporated into the overall plan for the movement and struggle against Israel so that some action could be taken against Israel. However, all that the people had achieved was undone by al-Sadat in 1973 and their success became the worst defeat in the history of the struggle against Israel.

Camp David was in itself the worst kind of defeat; this accord slit the veil that lay between us and Israel and built a bridge of relations with the Zionist entity. This bridge has eventually justified much of what other governments have done and all this clarifies Egypt's role in this period.

Regarding Egypt's role in current circumstances, there is a difference between the Egypt that is an Islamic, civilized, and Arab country and the Egyptian leadership, which is implementing an American-Israeli plan. Clearly Israel does not want a regional role for Egypt or for any other Arab country; it wants the contrary. Israel wants to eliminate regional roles of all types of the region's other countries and keep all the roles regarding economy, security, and regional policy for itself. Regarding its influence, there is a great difference as to whether Egypt will be at the heart of history or on its periphery. At present it is certainly on the margin.

Israel is now the one seeking to stand at the brink of history. It wants to occupy the position that it has captured from Egypt's Islamic and political civilization. For example, consider the issue of nuclear weapons destruction. Egypt fully realizes that as long as Israel is a nuclear power, peace will never be established. This also provides Israel the opportunity to use its predominance to exercise greater influence. Naturally, we saw that Egypt opposed this agreement. However, with pressure from the United States and threats from Israel that it

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will wrest the waters of the Nile and use the issue in bilateral talks; that it will stir up tension between Egypt and the United States and so on, Egypt was pushed into a defensive position.

This has proven that Israel is a complete accomplice of the United States and not merely a deputy. Initially it appeared that Egypt was participating in the regional talks' developments, but it is evident that this participation is waning. This is certainly to the benefit of Israel under the auspices of its relations with the United States. [passage omitted]

These are today's realities. They have caused major discrepancies and Arabs feel that their internal structures and balances of power have been disrupted; the Cold War, which once assured their interests, has been eliminated. Further, the new phenomenon of splits of Arab against Arab has been added. So far, all this shows that the overall situation and atmosphere of the recent accords are quite different from those of Camp David.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Peres Meets With King Hassan in Morocco

Arrives for Second Visit

LD1312140095 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres arrived this morning in Morocco from Washington.

Driss Basri, minister of state for the interior and information, and Andre Azoulay, his majesty's adviser on economic and financial affairs, and David Dadon, head of the Israeli interest office in Morocco, were at his reception at Rabat-Sale Airport. [passage omitted]

During his visit to the Loudaya gardens, the Israeli prime minister gave a brief press statement in which he expressed his happiness at visiting Morocco for a second time.

Regarding the results of his visit to the United States, Peres said that peace between Syria and Israel would be achieved despite all the obstacles.

Briefs King on U.S. Visit

TA1312171695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told Morocco's King Hassan that the Syrian reaction to Israeli suggestions regarding the attainment of regional peace was interesting. He asked King Hassan to notify Washington that he too supports the idea of regional peace. The prime minister further told the Moroccan king that, in the discussions with Syria, it is impossible to announce the price first and later hold negotiations.

The prime minister and the king discussed the relations between Israel and Morocco. Mr. Peres said that economic ties are developing well, but diplomatic ties lag behind. The king promised he will take steps to accelerate progress on the political level as well. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the meeting lasted over two hours.

Holds News Conference With King

LD1312193395 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the royal residence in Bouznika this afternoon, His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, received Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, who arrived in Morocco this morning coming from Washington.

Following the reception, his highness held tete-a-tete talks with the Israeli prime minister. At the end of this meeting, Shim'on Peres presented a symbolic token of the dove of peace to the noble monarch. He also introduced the members of the accompanying official delegation to his majesty.

Later on, his majesty and the Israeli prime minister made two statements to the Israeli and Moroccan media representatives and his majesty the king answered two questions presented by representatives of Israeli television. Here is the full recording of the statements:

[Begin recording, in French] [Hassan] I have been very happy to meet with Prime Minister Peres. As you know, there has been a personal relationship between us for quite a long time. During these talks we have had the occasion to remember Prime Minister Rabin who has gone so tragically. Once again, I take this opportunity to offer my condolences to the people of Israel, his wife, and his family. Naturally, the prime minister and I spoke about the prospects of peace in the Middle East. I cannot say anything to you about the contents of our talks, but I trust his ability to be creative and imaginative, and to comprehend the geopolitics of the region. I trust all his qualities so that Israel's participation in the quest for peace may be positive and extremely important. At any rate, from my heart, I wish him good luck in this quest for peace.

[Peres] I thank his majesty. I vividly remember that his majesty was the first leader in the Middle East who tried very seriously to create a rapprochement

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between the Palestinian people and ourselves. We also had at the Moroccan king's [palace] a meeting with Mr. 'Arafat at a very difficult moment. Today, I have come here to inform his majesty, on the one hand, about what is going on between us and the Palestinians and between us and the Jordanians, and also to seek his advice for the future. As you know, there is a great deal of friendship for the people of Morocco, and a great deal of respect for the Moroccan king. In my view, the king of Morocco is a leader with a very rare ability to propose solutions, support negotiations, and work continuously for a Mediterranean of peace, development, a very modern Mediterranean. We have had an extremely nice meeting, and I thank His Majesty King Hassan.

[Unidentified Israeli television correspondent] Majesty, do you believe that Morocco will be assuming perhaps a more important role in order to bring peace in the Middle East closer? Second question, if you permit: Given that you are so popular in Israel — what the prime minister has said is very true, everybody loves you in Israel — is it possible that we will be seeing you soon in Israel?

[Hassan] I cannot make any comment on the first question, as for the second, I hope that the sooner peace comes the sooner I will be coming to your country.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Comments on Peace Process, King's Role

LD1412000295 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Before leaving Morocco, Shim'on Peres held a news conference with a large number of the national and international media representatives during which he reiterated praise for King Hassan's role in the Middle East peace process.

In his introduction, the Israeli prime minister affirmed that his visit to Morocco was very important, pointing out that he came to brief His Majesty King Hassan II about the developments in the region on the one hand, and to ask his majesty's advice regarding future policy on the other. He added that the most important issue at present is the start of a real march toward peace in the whole region and with various parties. He said that negotiations with Syria and Lebanon are liable to create a chance for the Middle East region to enter a comprehensive peace.

He expressed conviction that His Majesty King Hassan II could play a very important role in changing the situation in the region, not geographically only but politically, economically, and strategically as well. He pointed out that he had discussed all these issues and ideas in Washington and before that in Amman, Cairo, and Gaza, and that he is convinced that at present there is an unprecedented chance [for peace], which should not be ignored or delayed.

He added that the second phase of the peace process started when the first phase was about to finish, especially after Israel promised, for the first time, to end its control over the Palestinians, which was a great change and had more significance than the Declaration of Principles, and will enable us to provide a better future for the coming generations.

Regarding the Israeli-Syrian negotiation track, Shim'on Peres said that there are difficulties as was the case at the beginning with the Palestinians and the Jordanians. Despite these difficulties there are also possibilities to overcome the pending problems, he said.

In conclusion, he expressed his hope that all parties concerned will make serious efforts and without wasting more time to negotiate seriously to attain real peace that will serve all interests.

Following this introduction, the Israeli prime minister replied to correspondents' questions.

Regarding the Israeli-Syrian track, he affirmed that now negotiations should be conducted openly, objectively, and simultaneously vis-a-vis all issues. With regard to the situation in Jerusalem, he said that due to the important religious character of the city it will remain open to all main religions.

Hails 'Constructive' Talks

LD1312215795 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This evening the Israeli prime minister [Shim'on Peres] left our country. Before leaving, he was keen to laud the good efforts of His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, to achieve peace in the Middle East.

At the VIP hall at Rabat-Sale airport and with the attendance of Driss Basri, minister of state for the interior, and Andre Azoulay, the adviser of His Majesty, the Israeli prime minister held a news conference with national and international media representatives.

At the conference, Shim'on Peres expressed satisfaction over the visit, affirming that the outcome of his talks with his majesty the king were constructive and fruitful and dealt with various aspects of the peace process in the Middle East. In this context, he praised the great role played by His Majesty King Hassan II to achieve peace in the Middle East region.

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The Israeli prime minister, Shim'on Peres, also talked about the future of negotiations with Syria and the results of the visit he recently paid to the United States, his talks with President Bill Clinton, as well as the issue of Jerusalem. Regarding the latter, he made clear that the issue has two aspects which should be differentiated: the religious and political aspects. [passage omitted]

May Establish 'Full Diplomatic Relations'

TA1412121295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Dec 95 p A3

["Exclusive" report by Aluf Ben with the prime minister's entourage in Morocco]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rabat — Morocco may establish full diplomatic relations with Israel even before a peace agreement is achieved with Syria. This was stated yesterday by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres following his meeting with King Hassan at his palace in Rabat. Peres said he told the king that he has not come to ask for anything. "It is not necessary to ask for something in every visit." King Hassan promised to visit Israel after peace is achieved.

King Hassan reacted favorably to Peres' comprehensive regional peace concept, which was also raised during the prime minister's visit to Washington. Peres asked Hassan to inform the United States that he will join an initiative to convene all the Middle East leaders for a joint peace-signing ceremony between Israel and Syria.

The prime minister said that the king promised to contribute as much as possible to advancing regional peace rather than settling for bilateral agreements. "I told him that it is time to start thinking in regional terms. The Casablanca conference was an important beginning in that direction," Peres noted.

In the private meeting which lasted more than one hour, Peres briefed Hassan about his talks in Washington on the Syrian issue and about the implementation of the interim agreement with the Palestinians in the West Bank.

Following the meeting, Peres said that the king expressed satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations with Israel and promised to push them forward. Peres added: "I told him that practical developments on the ground are moving ahead of formal ties."

Upon his arrival in Morocco, the prime minister said: "Our relations with Morocco are advancing step by step in a satisfactory manner. There is a lot of warmth in both countries toward the other country." About his host, Peres said: "I greatly respect the king as an extremely well-educated statesman with warm feelings toward Israel." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 14 December includes a page 3 report by Ben Kaspit on an interview with Andrey Azulay, an adviser of King Hassan, in which the latter is quoted as saying: "There are very good chances for Israeli-Moroccan diplomatic relations' being upgraded in the near future." "Every meeting between King Hassan and the prime minister and every such visit bring us one step closer to full diplomatic relations between the two countries." Azulay goes on to say that the king is considering a visit to Israel before the elections next year: "The king knows he is very popular among large segments of the Israeli public, and it is not inconceivable that he will visit Israel in the near future."]

Israel, PA Discuss Nabulus Events, Passports

TA1412060895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Major General Oren Shahor has reportedly asked Jamil al-Tarifi, in charge of civil affairs for the autonomy, to look into measures that can be taken against people who burned the Israeli flag during the army pullout from Nabulus earlier this week. The two heads of the joint Israeli-Palestinian committee on civilian matters met in Ramallah yesterday, where they discussed the transfer of more powers to the Palestinian Authority [PA] and other issues, including the bypass roads. Al-Tarifi said the self-rule government opposes any provocations against Israeli troops while they withdraw from West Bank towns and has an interest in making sure the redeployment goes smoothly.

Israel has complained to the civil committee of the PA over the disbursement of hundreds of passports to East Jerusalem residents, contrary to the Israel-PLO agreement. Israel has also said the Palestinian Police are not doing enough to stop the theft of Israeli vehicles. The Palestinians, meanwhile, have complained that Ben-Gurion Airport officials are not recognizing their newly distributed passports.

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Algeria

LIBERTE Director, Journalist Sentenced

LD1312135395 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the director and a journalist of the independent daily LIBERTE have been given suspended sentences. The newspaper had been suspended for two weeks. The two men were accused of repeatedly publishing false information.

Most Algerian papers have been on strike since yesterday in protest against these measures.

The director Outoudert Abrous and the journalist Samir Kaniaz were given, respectively, four months and two months suspended jail terms. They have decided to appeal.

FIS Statement Condemns Algiers Bombing

LD1312221795 Tehran IRNA in English 2158 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Dec. 13, IRNA — The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has condemned the car bomb blast in Algiers yesterday which killed 15 people and wounded more than 40.

"We strongly condemn this criminal act and denounce it, and we denounce its perpetrators regardless to which group they belonged," said a FIS statement faxed to IRNA Wednesday night from Germany.

It was the bloodiest attack since November's presidential elections in Algeria.

"The effort to a just and total political solution must be the urgent aim of both the opposition and the authorities," said the statement in Arabic. The Front, which was banned after it won general elections in 1991, renewed its offer for dialog with the Algerian regime.

FIS spokesman in Europe, Rabeh Kebir, in an open letter to Liamine Zeroual last month expressed the Islamic group's willingness to engage in dialog to overcome obstacles to peace.

The statement also called on the regime to release all Islamist prisoners including FIS leaders as a goodwill gesture.

Egypt

Musa on Peace Prospects, Iraq, Other Issues

MM1312154795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Dec 95 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by unidentified AL-HAYAH and AL-WASAT correspondents in Cairo on 11 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-HAYAH] What future do you see for the Syrian-Israeli track in the light of Shim'on Peres' recent visit to Egypt?

[Musa] Circumstances have developed positively in the interest of the reactivation of that track. The proposal Rabin (the assassinated Israeli prime minister) made at the end of last year when he met with the chiefs of staff of the two sides in Washington, and in the months which followed, only dealt with the question of security, and that stopped or impeded that (Syrian-Israeli) track. The Israeli security theory was that there should be a ground (early warning) station on Syrian territory, which meant that withdrawal (from the Golan) would not be complete. Now that Peres has taken over, that concept has changed. He has expressed interest in a comprehensive concept providing for the revival of Rabin's first proposal for the Syrian track but on four foundations: Peace relations, withdrawal, security, and a timetable. Syria is not opposed to Peres' old-new concept. It is willing to discuss mutual security and withdrawal in a context different from the past one. That is what will take place, according to Peres' public and private statements. Of course, the Israelis link the new concept to some issues like water, borders, and high-level negotiations.

Logically, and I am not talking on behalf of the Syrians here, if the Israelis make a "good offer," that would lead to a higher level of negotiations than the present one but there is a need for such an offer to assure the Syrians that the Israeli approach is now different. That is what the Syrians expect.

[AL-HAYAH] What is Isra[illegible]'s understanding of a higher level of representation in the negotiations with Syria? And is that confined to the military aspect?

[Musa] The Israelis have mentioned foreign ministers or a higher level but that would depend on developments. I cannot say for certain but the possibility is there and it depends on the way the proposal is made and the windows it might open, and perhaps on U.S. efforts.

[AL-HAYAH] There are some ideas for the reactivation of the Syrian-Israeli track: a search for a face-saving formula for the Israelis, in relation to the Israeli position

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on security and Syria's rejection of an early warning station.

[Musa] The matter is deeper than face-saving. This is a very serious matter. That has been pointed out to us. There is no such thing as face-saving.

At a recent meeting in New York, a former U.S. official talked about Israeli security versus Arab dignity. I said to him: Sorry, Israeli security versus Arab security and Arab dignity versus Israeli dignity.

We have learned enough and have graduated (qualified) and have come to understand the meanings of words. There is no such thing as face-saving as against Arab dignity.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you expect the Syrians and Israelis to reach agreement by next spring?

[Musa] I believe that there will be progress, not agreement, because there are major issues such as water, borders, withdrawal, and security. I also do not believe that there will be agreement before the Israeli elections because there is no time.

[AL-HAYAH] Could the Syrian-Lebanese situation create a problem between Syria and Egypt?

[Musa] Why? The situation between Syria and Lebanon is governed by the fact that Lebanon is an independent sovereign state. Relations between the two are special relations by agreement and acceptance of both sides. The Lebanese track in the peace process has not been tackled yet, although it is likely to be in the near future. We will stand with Lebanon against anything which might undermine its safety, territory, or sovereignty. We believe that the special ties between Lebanon and Syria are a matter for them. I see no crisis there.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you believe that the Lebanese and Syrian tracks are linked in the peace process?

[Musa] At the beginning of the negotiations there were two parallel Lebanese and Syrian tracks. The Lebanese track could be reactivated now. Why not? But Lebanon might wait until there is progress on the Syrian track. That is a matter of tactics. The Lebanese track is independent and it should lead to Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and to agreements similar to the agreements concluded between its neighbors and Israel.

[AL-HAYAH] On the question of the step-by-step peace, some Arab states take one step, others take two or three, to the point of what we might call "rush" or "haste." Are any contacts being made to put the brakes on these states?

[Musa] Nobody is asking any particular state to put the brakes on its actions but we all believe that this is an important journey. What has happened so far between the Palestinians and Israelis only covered a few points and problems.

In Egypt we have a saying that "what is heavy comes later." That means that the five important issues of Jerusalem, self-determination, the shape of the Palestinian entity, the borders, and the settlements are all important major issues which require that we should all, large and small, be sincere and honest with ourselves.

[AL-HAYAH] In the fifties the Arab League was one of the features of Egyptian foreign policy. Since the Arab League's return to Cairo when the boycott over Camp David ended, Egypt's policy regarding the Arab League has not been clear. What does Egypt want from the Arab League?

[Musa] The Arab League's role at one stage is different from its role now. The League is just a mirror of the Arab position. The erosion of that position and the divisions and sensitivities have seriously and adversely affected the League.

The Arab states are now beginning to return to the idea that the League is the home of the Arabs. Actually, some voices in Israel helped us in that because they kept attacking the League. The Arab League will remain the home of the Arabs and the framework for Arab action. There is now more interest in the League than in the past years. It is set to play a greater role in maintaining the Arab identity.

The League was not one of the mechanisms of Egyptian policy. it should be an Arab mechanism at a time when the Arab identity is under threat. As an Egyptian, I would be quite wrong to want the Arab League to be a part of my policy in favor of or against anyone. It is in Egypt's interest that the League should be the main mechanism for preserving the Arab identity. I suggest that we consider the Arab League as a framework for an Arab policy, not an arm of Egyptian policy. If we succeed in that it would mean that we have scored a major success in the stage of facing the challenge to everything that is Arab.

As regards the question of Arab structure, the Middle East concept is still a headline with a lesser substance. The Middle East concept presents itself for the future but the Arab concept is still there and must be preserved in such a way that the smaller entity would contribute to the bigger entity.

There should also be Arab agreement on certain interests and certain political, economic, and security lines that would fit into the Middle Eastern framework which would be absorbed into the Mediterranean framework.

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We should proceed on that basis. I see no conflict between the Middle Eastern concept and the Mediterranean concept just as I see no conflict between the Middle Eastern concept and the Arab concept because these are matters related to the existing societies. We are an Arab society with its own characteristics, history, and interests on which we should concentrate. That does not conflict with the Middle Eastern concept because it is not against Israel but parallel to it.

We will continue to say that there are certain Arab interests which must be protected. To talk about them is not to talk about confrontation. There are joint interests which must be strengthened in the interest of peace and stability.

[AL-HAYAH] In the event of agreement between Syria and Israel, how do you view Iran's role in the region and the development of relations between Iran and Syria and Egypt?

[Musa] Judging by the Iranian reactions to Syria's statements and positions, it seems to us that these reactions do not much reflect a change in the Iranian policy in which there are numerous points which, we believe, should change. I do not believe that Iran has a power of veto over Syria. It is also unlikely that the Iranian dimension would make Syria hesitate about concluding a peace agreement with Israel. Politically, everything is moving toward calm. I do not imagine that Syria would let its position be governed by Iranian guidelines.

Our role as far as Syria is concerned is to support its position as it sees it. As regards Iran, I have said more than once that it is a major state in the region and it would be preferable to have good relations between it and the Arabs because it is abnormal for the situation to continue to be tense between us and them. The opposite is better for us all because, whether we like it or not, Iran is a part of the Middle East.

Tension should give way to Arab-Iranian cooperation. We call for a reconsideration of Iranian policy with regard to the Arabs and their tendencies. The future of relations cannot be based on hating certain regimes. We also call for negotiations to end Iran's occupation of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] islands in the Gulf. There is no such thing as a fait accompli. We Arabs have suffered from something called a fait accompli, and we no longer accept it. In fact, we hate it and are sensitive about that issue. If Iran wants to cling to the fait accompli then that would be a recipe for continued tension with the Gulf states and, consequently, with us because the Gulf states are a part of us just as we are a part of them.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you believe that the peace process and the Middle East and Mediterranean arrangements will make do with the current entities in the region or is there an idea of changing some entities according to some formulas or some disintegration in relation to Iraq or to relations between Syria and Lebanon? How does Egypt feel about restructuring the region?

[Musa] There is some talk about entities, partitions, and so on not only outside the Arab world but also in it, especially about partitioning Iraq and about ambitions in Iraq. We warn — just as we warned before this was raised in the press — that partition of Iraq is a destructive ruinous formula that would harm many and benefit nobody. Some individual or regime may benefit for a short period of time but the result would be a calamity for all. Resisting that is an Arab responsibility. We have already lost much. Are we now to lose territory, be it in northern Iraq or southern Sudan? In whose interest should we abandon northern or southern Iraq? Why should we accept partition of Iraq?

Regrettably, that is in the minds of some outside and inside the Arab world, not only because of the peace process but also because of many circumstances as a result of which the situations around the Arab world have changed, as have the centers of power. And so, some regimes might change in the interest of one side or another.

We must all stand united against any partition of or ambitions in Iraq. What is done is done and what we are concerned with now is how to deal with the Iraq of today and the Iraq of the future.

Iraq is a part of the Arab world. Its interests are our interests. True, it was wrong to invade Kuwait, leading to serious repercussions for all of us, including disrupted security.

Nothing is eternal. This matter should be tackled against a background of theories which speak of changing the regimes and structures of the existing Arab states when peace is established. I advise caution and unity against these politically nonsensical theories.

[AL-HAYAH] In what respect does the Egyptian position toward Iraq differ from that of the United States and that of the Gulf? Can we say that Egypt is prepared to accept the rehabilitation of the Iraqi regime?

[Musa] It is not necessary for me when I draw up our policy toward Iraq to take into consideration the reactions of this or that country toward any specific matter. This might, however, be one element, but not the only element.

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As to the essence of the matter and what concerns us regarding Iraq, it is, firstly, the sufferings of the Iraqi people. This matter falls within the responsibility of every Arab whatever his position or country and irrespective of his ideology. The fact that there is an Arab people in Iraq and they are deteriorating is a matter which pains and moves us. The same applies to the question of the safety of Iraqi territory. As to the Iraqi regime, this is a matter which concerns the Iraqi people alone.

With regard to UN Security Council Resolution No. 986, which enables Iraq to sell its oil in order to purchase its needs, the Iraqi Government has rejected the method of its implementation and not the resolution itself. The method of implementation could be discussed with the UN Secretary General.

It is both a principal and an imperative duty [to ensure] that the Iraqi Government acquires these funds and accepts the resolution in order to be able to control the situation in Iraq with regard to the people who are in need of medicine and food. As regards implementation, it is indeed necessary that Iraqi sovereignty should be respected.

There is yet another aspect. At a time when optimism prevailed about Iraq's implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the destruction of the weapons of mass destruction, it transpired following the defection of (Lieutenant General) Husayn Kamil that not all the truth had been stated [by Iraq], and so the UN mission returned to Iraq and this has led to the prolongation of the issue.

This leads to the conclusion that when Rolf Ekeus informs the UN Security Council that he is truly convinced that Iraq has fulfilled all the requirements of the Security Council, paragraph 22 of the resolution (687) which pertains to the lifting of sanctions will be implemented.

Now it is imperative that the UN Security Council resolutions be implemented [by Iraq], for there is no way out of them. It is futile to try to conceal weapons, because the matter has been exposed. So let us finish with this matter once and for all and close the dossier and start afresh. To achieve this, the UN Security Council resolutions must be implemented, and quickly. Once this is done, the matter will end, according to the UN Security Council resolutions themselves. As to the Iraqi regime, this is a matter which concerns the Iraqis.

There is a limit beyond which we would not go. Jordan, for example, has had, until a short while ago, strong relations with the Iraqi regime, and even if it wanted to turn against the Iraqi regime today, it would not be able to do so. Besides, the question of the attitude toward the Iraqi regime is a matter that concerns the Iraqi people. As to when there might be a further move in the Egyptian position, this is a matter which depends on circumstances and every event is dealt with according to what it involves.

[AL-HAYAH] There is a theory that the continuation of the current situation in Iraq would only help to consecrate partition in reality. It is feared now that the continuation of the situation and the absence of any intervention might lead to a further deterioration. What do you say to that?

[Musa] I am aware of this theory. But there is another theory that the present situation in Iraq is what preserves Iraq's unity, and that partition would take place if the conditions were different, and that there are [now] conditions that protect the present state of affairs.

We do not want to tackle the question of Iraq in a manner that would lead to the division and explosion of the Arab world once more. We must not pursue a direction that would "blow up" the Arab world again.

[AL-HAYAH] Is it at all possible to change the provisions pertaining to the method of implementation of Resolution 986?

[Musa] I believe that the resolution itself would not be reconsidered, because present international political conditions would not permit this. But as regards the method of implementation of the resolution, there is a chance of reviewing it. The resolution excludes the Iraqi Government from the method of implementation. But many feel that conditions are now better than they were at the time when the resolution was adopted. However, much depends on what the Iraqi Government would be prepared to accept in regard to the method of implementation.

[AL-HAYAH] There are axes at present: an Egyptian-Syrian axis, countered by a Palestinian-Jordanian axis in which Israel is involved. Do you not think that the situation might lead to the creation of axes?

[Musa] Any negative development such as the attempt to partition Iraq will immediately create axes. As things are now, there are no axes.

[AL-HAYAH] Egyptian foreign policy is being criticized for being formulated on the basis of the retraction of the Egyptian role in the region. What do you say to that?

[Musa] Egyptian policy is not drawn up on the basis of any specific role. The present Egyptian policy stems from an Arab-regional-Mediterranean basis. When we

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express the desire for the Arab League to become one of the arms of Arab politics, namely that of reconciliation and the preservation of identity, it is because the issue is not one of roles but of an Egyptian outlook and theory based on the need to salvage all that can be salvaged in the Arab World and the restoration of Arab solidarity.

[AL-HAYAH] Will the result of the recent [Egyptian] parliamentary elections affect their thoughts with regard to reviewing what could be done in the coming stage?

[Musa] We are happy with the interest shown in Egypt politically and economically, internally and externally. This provides a reply to what is being said about Egypt's role shrinking into its shell and affirms the importance of its success for the sake of stability in the region. We do not see any major crisis in the conditions in Egypt. True, there are economic difficulties. But I must say that during the past 10 years, the Egyptian infrastructure was completely rebuilt in the sphere of roads, communications, telephones, factories, hospitals, sanitation, and electricity. Furthermore, services have improved, gas and oil production have increased, and exports and investments have doubled.

As regards the question of extremism, it is as old as contemporary Egyptian politics. The Muslim Brotherhood has crystallized this current since the late twenties in the politicization of society. They (the Muslim Brotherhood members) have crystallized the use of force since the forties into acts of assassination which claimed the lives of two Egyptian prime ministers — Mahmud Fahmi al-Nuqrashi and Ahmad Mahir — as well as Governor of Cairo Salim Zaki. These actions continued throughout the presidencies of the late Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and Anwar al-Sadat.

Thus extremism is not new. Political Islam in this contemporary age was born in Egypt. It was opposed by all the regimes, royal and republican alike. Since the reign of King Faruq, tension has existed between political Islam or the politicization of Islam and the governments.

Egyptian society rejects extremism even if it is influenced by it for economic or social reasons. But the active forces in the society refuse to accept the domination of an extremist current which misinterprets religion. Undoubtedly, we have our troubles and so do others. But we have noticed numerous exaggerations in the outside reporting and depicting of Egyptian problems, which give the impression that Egypt is about to end and that the regime and the government are in tatters and the people are at a loss. We do not claim that we operate like the French and Germans. But we are doing better in the spheres of policies of economic reform.

[AL-HAYAH] We have heard that, prior to last month's Algerian presidential elections and during his visit to Paris, President Husni Mubarak expressed pessimism about the ability of President Liamine Zeroual to steer Algeria out of its crisis.

[Musa] That is not true. President Mubarak did not talk in this manner. On the contrary, President Mubarak has had and continues to have confidence in President Zeroual and the Algerian Government and their ability to lead Algeria out of the impasse from which Algeria has actually begun to emerge.

[AL-HAYAH] What is the Egyptian policy with regard to the Red Sea in the light of the visit paid by an Egyptian mission to the Ethiopian island of Dahlak, where an Israeli military presence was discovered?

[Musa] Cooperation and coordination among the Red Sea countries must increase still more. We must also embark on beneficial operations within the framework of the Red Sea. But the present conditions do not permit any rallying among the Red Sea member countries.

As to the security of the Red Sea, it is an extremely important matter. Any toying with it will affect our Arab and Egyptian security. As to the question of the Egyptian mission, I have nothing to say about this.

Musa on Decision To Send Forces to Bosnia

NC1312162295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt has decided to participate in the new multinational force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He added that other Islamic countries have also decided to participate in this force, including Pakistan, Malaysia, and Turkey. [passage omitted]

Mubarak, Saudi Prince Khalid Discuss Iraq

NC1312135995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)— President Husni Mubarak today received Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan, former commander of the coalition forces that participated in the liberation of Kuwait.

After the meeting, Prince Khalid praised Egypt's role in the liberation of Kuwait, especially the role of President Mubarak whom he described as a "great leader." He also emphasized the deep friendship between President Mubarak and King Fahd.

Asked about King Fahd's health, Prince Khalid said King Fahd, who left the hospital on Friday [8 December], is now recuperating and in very good condition.

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On the situation on Iraq, Prince Khalid said the embargo against Iraq originally aimed to rescue the Iraqi people and weaken Saddam's regime, but after five years it has become clear that the regime has caused problems from which the Iraqi people are suffering and the blockade has not achieved its objectives. Prince Khalid explained that he does not oppose lifting the embargo because the idea behind this is to rescue the Iraqi people from its rulers. He said the embargo is based on UN resolutions and an alternative must be found for it. He explained that finding this alternative is beyond the capability of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, or any other Middle Eastern country.

Prince Khalid explained that an alternative to the embargo must come from the United Nations and the United States. He said: We have rescued and fed the Somali people. Why don't we think of something to rescue the Iraqi people?

Asked about the attempts to partition Iraq, Prince Khalid said he does not believe anyone who loves Iraq and wants to reinstate it in the Arab family wants, at the same time, to partition it.

Asked about the recent differences between Qatar and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, he said there is cooperation and solidarity among the GCC states. If there are any differences, they must be resolved.

Mubarak, Peres Discuss Peace Proposals on Phone

NC1412112595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call this morning from Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres upon his return to Israel from Washington.

During the conversation, Mubarak and Peres discussed proposals to make progress in the different peace process tracks and ways to overcome obstacles in light of the talks Peres held in the United States. They also reviewed ongoing contacts with the various parties in that connection.

Ambassador to Beirut Views Sudanese Envoy's Remarks

NC1312184995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 13 Dec (MENA)—Egypt's Ambassador to Lebanon 'Adil al-Khudari has strongly denounced statements by a Sudanese envoy in Beirut yesterday after conveying a message to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. In his statements, the Sudanese envoy alleged that there was a conspiracy to partition Sudan with Egypt's participation.

In statements to the Lebanese NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY today, Ambassador al-Khudari said all these claims are an attempt to cover up the deteriorating situation in Sudan.

The Egyptian ambassador reacted to the statements by 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, minister of Sudanese presidential affairs. He said the regime that speaks about a conspiracy or a major plot is the one that is involved in conspiring against its neighbors, planning to destabilize the countries around it, and exporting terrorism to their peoples.

The Egyptian ambassador in Beirut added that the Sudanese minister pretended to forget that every one knows the facts in this era of a communications revolution. He emphasized that everyone knows Egypt's pan-Arab principles and its historic and firm stance on the need for Sudan to retain its territorial integrity.

Ambassador al-Khudari expressed his astonishment at the Sudanese official's statements. He said: I was hoping this minister would convey information indicating that the Sudanese regime has retracted its subversive policy and that it is cooperating to close terrorist training centers and hand over those involved in the attempted assassination of President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

The ambassador noted that the Sudanese people know full well that Egypt is always with them and that it will support them as part of its pan-Arab and historic commitment to the unity of the fraternal Sudanese people and land.

'Terrorist Scheme' Foiled; 56 Arrested

NC1312145995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1428 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—State Security Intelligence Service units dealt a crushing blow to the terrorists today when they foiled a major terrorist scheme to undermine the country's stability and domestic security. Terrorist leaders abroad had sent individuals back to Egypt to implement the scheme.

The security forces arrested 56 terrorists led by several leaders of a suicide group. Two terrorists were killed during the arrest.

Five of the detained are Sudanese nationals, two are Egyptians, and several others are people who got involved by offering shelter to the terrorists during their trips to the country.

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An official security source stated that as part of the ongoing security strikes against the terrorists inside the country and abroad, the State Security Intelligence Service mounted a surveillance operation a few days ago to follow the movements of terrorist groups sent to Egypt from Sudan. It foiled the groups' bloody objectives.

The source added that tip-offs and investigation showed that leaders of the al-Jihad Organization living in London planned the conspiratorial scheme on British and Sudanese territories. They selected terrorists who had received military training and sent them to Egypt to carry out suicide operations.

The Al-Jihad Organization leaders coordinated with armed Sudanese groups to facilitate the transport of the chosen terrorists to Egypt via desert routes. The Sudanese groups were tasked with ensuring that the terrorists reached the Egyptian border safely.

The Interior Ministry security source said that units of the State Security Intelligence Service succeeded in monitoring a plan by terrorist leaders living in the British capital. The plan called for the implementation of a series of terrorist operations by Mahmud al-Sayyid Sha'ban al-Dib and Nabil 'Abd-al-Rahman Rizq. The source noted that in light of this important information, confirmed by investigation and surveillance, State Security organs sent several antiterrorist squads to arrest the suspects in successive waves over the past week in al-Jizah and Alexandria Governorates.

The operations led to the arrest of 56 persons, led by the following leaders of a suicide group:

-Terrorist Akram 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mahmud al-Sharif, a naturalized Briton, married to a British woman and working as a driver in the UK. He received organizational training in the UK and has strong links with the fugitive terrorist leader 'Adil 'Abd-al-Majid 'Abd-al-Bari. The latter recently instructed him to establish a communications center in Egypt to serve the scheme that involves the implementation of hostile operations.

-Five Sudanese nationals: Ahmad 'Id Sa'id, Hasan Muhammad 'Id Hamad, Sa'id Muhammad Abu-Hamid, Hamid 'Abdallah 'Uwaydah, and Mubarak Baraki al-'Ayidi.

State Security personnel also arrested two Egyptian terrorists who had helped transfer other terrorists from Sudanese territory to Egypt across the border areas of Daraw, Idfu, and Nasr al-Nuba in Aswan Governorate. Large sums of money and unlicensed weapons were seized with them.

The security operations revealed that Muhammad Ahmad Diyab and Ihab Ahmad Diyab, relatives of the fugitive terrorist leader 'Adil 'Abd-al-Majid 'Abd-al-Bari—who has political asylum in Britain, provided shelter for the terrorist scheme members in the home of their aged grandmother who lives alone in Cairo's al-Sharabiyah neighborhood. The two suspects confessed their role in the terrorist scheme but said that they did not know the full extent of its criminal objectives.

Two terrorists, Muhammad al-Sayyid Sha'ban al-Dib and Nabil 'Abd-al-Rahman Rizq, were killed during the security operation. Terrorist Muhammad al-Sayyid Sha'ban al-Dib, who had a diploma from a vocational school, was a leader of the military wing of the terrorist and violently bloody al-Jihad Organization. He received top military training in Afghanistan that included training in the use of firearms and the manufacture of explosive devices. He was wanted in connection with numerous terrorist cases.

This terrorist and some of his helpers fired on the security forces sent to apprehend them at their hideout in an area of stone quarries at the 52-km point on the Alexandria-Marsa Matruh desert road. The security forces exchanged fire with them. Al-Dib was killed and his aides were arrested.

Terrorist Nabil 'Abd-al-Rahman Rizq was a student at a technical commercial institute in al-Zaqaziq. He was a member of the military wing of the violently bloody al-Jihad Organization. He underwent several top training courses in Afghanistan, including training in the use of firearms and the manufacture of explosive devices. He was wanted in connection with many terrorist cases.

This terrorist fired on the security forces sent to apprehend him at his hideout at the 2-km point on the road between Ismailia and Port Said. The security forces returned the fire, killing him. One of his aides fled. The area is being searched for him.

During the arrest operations several weapons and quantities of ammunition, documents, and organizational papers were seized. They included four 7.62/39 automatic rifles, nine ammunition magazines of the same caliber, and nine pistols of various caliber, in the following brands: Hulwan, Beretta, Lara, Browning, and Starling.

The seized material included a complete laboratory for preparing and manufacturing explosives. It was hidden in an al-Jihad hideout in the Kirdasah area near the Pyramids. Also seized were quantities of explosives and ammunition, a camera, and a collection of al-Jihad Organization documents, including data on the places of residence, means of transport, and itineraries of numerous state officials, including politicians, government ex-

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ecutives, military personnel, public personalities, police officers, authors, journalists, and artists.

Also seized were large sums of money in local and foreign currencies amounting to around 25,000 pounds sterling, $3,000, and 50,000 Egyptian pounds, forged passports, documents, and official papers, some of which were not yet filled in with information. Some were already filled out with names and descriptions ready for use by the terrorists on their travels. The haul included several bank account numbers, expenses lists, and bank statements on the transfer of funds from London to Egypt.

The Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office has begun interrogating many of the detained suspects. They have made detailed confessions about the vile terrorist scheme in which they were involved. The State Security Intelligence Service is continuing its operations to arrest all the individuals linked with this terrorist scheme.

Pakistan Hands Over Embassy Bomb Suspect

MM1412130095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Dec 95 pp 1,6

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffiq Zaydan in Peshawar and AL-HAYAH in Cairo: "Islamabad Hands Over Egyptian National Suspected of Involvement in Embassy Bombing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources in Peshawar have told AL-HAYAH that the Pakistani security authorities have handed over to the Egyptian authorities a young Egyptian called Ahmad Sa'id, a holder of Canadian citizenship. Two weeks ago, the Pakistani authorities raided his home in Hayatabad, a Peshawar suburb, but he was in Afghanistan. It was discovered that he heads the humanitarian relief agency which has been working with Afghan immigrants in Pakistan since the early eighties. Upon his return to Hayatabad he gave himself up to the Pakistani authorities who detained him along with two other relief agencies' chiefs.

Pakistani Interior Minister Nasrullah Babar stated after Sa'id's arrest that he is suspected of involvement in financing the Egyptian Embassy bombing in Islamabad on 19 November, resulting in 17 dead and 60 wounded.

The interior minister accused the relief agencies working with Afghan immigrants in his country of involvement in terrorist activities. These agencies however have repeatedly denied carrying out any activities outside the scope of their humanitarian tasks. Pakistani sources say that a decision may be taken to close these organizations.

The Pakistani interior minister is trying to discover the identity of the perpetrators of the Egyptian Embassy bombing. Pakistani sources said that he has arrived in Manila following a visit to the United States, in a move aimed at following up suspects. Manila and Islamabad signed an agreement to exchange suspects after it was discovered that Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf, mastermind of the New York World Trade Center bombing, had stayed in the Philippines for a while before moving to Pakistan, which extradited him to Washington in February 1994.

The Pakistani authorities continue to tighten up security at airports following threats from "Islamic groups" to hijack Pakistani airplanes if Islamabad hands over any Arab to his country's authorities. The tightening up of security measures comes on the eve of the Pakistan-Egyptian committee's first meetings in Cairo on Saturday.

The committee will focus on reinforcing cooperation between the two countries in the political, economic, and security fields. These are the first meetings held by the committee since its formation 10 years ago.

President Husni Mubarak will receive the day after tomorrow Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali Khan, who will hand him a letter from the Pakistani president concerning cooperation between the two countries and the latest results of the investigations into the Egyptian Embassy bombing.

It has been learned that a high-level official in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry will participate in the committee's meetings which will be attended by several ministers. The joint committee's preliminary meetings started on the evening of the day before yesterday, and were headed on the Egyptian side by Ambassador Sayyid Abu Zayd, assistant foreign minister for Asian affairs. Members of the two delegations observed a one-minute silence in memory of the Embassy bombing's victims.

Fathi Surur Elected People's Assembly Speaker

NC1312135895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur has won the post of People's Assembly speaker in an uncontested election. No other deputy nominated himself for the post.

The new People's Assembly term began this morning. The Assembly held a session under the chairmanship of Mukhtar 'Uthman, a National Democratic Party [NDP] member and the oldest deputy. He was assisted by the two youngest deputies, Ayman Nur of the Wafd Party, and Muhyi-al-Din al-Qattan of the NDP. [passage omitted]

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Sudan

Al-Bashir, Ghana President Rawlings Hold Talks

Discuss Relations

EA1312184095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, this morning at the VIP lounge at Khartoum Airport met Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings and his delegation in the presence of a number of ministers, diplomats, and the Ghanaian ambassador in Khartoum. During the meeting, the two presidents discussed relations between the two countries and ways of developing them, the concerns of the African continent and ways of utilizing the continent's resources in the interests of the African citizen. The two also touched on foreign interference serving to weaken the continent.

It is worth mentioning that the Ghanaian president had arrived in Khartoum after touring a number of Asian states, including Singapore, Malaysia, China, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

His Excellency has left Khartoum for home.

Comment on Issues

EA1312201495 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On his way home from a tour of a number of Asian states, Ghanaian President Jerry John Rawlings arrived in Khartoum this morning. He was met at the VIP lounge at Khartoum Airport by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, who discussed with him the relations between the two countries. The meeting also touched on African solidarity and ways of achieving it. Ghanaian President Jerry John Rawlings replied to a number ofjournalists' questions put to him. In his reply to questions about his opinions about the crises and problems which the African continent are suffering and the manner of solving these crises, he replied, saying:

[Begin Rawlings recording, in English fading into Arabic translation] Really, this is a part of what I would like to discuss with the president of the Republic. It is known that the African continent is continuing to suffer from a number of crises arising from ethnic, ideological, and tribal differences. Africa is one of the continents which has suffered greatly due to these problems ever since the era of colonialism and while passing through the Cold War and its negative effects on the governments of African states.

In the context of solving these crises, I favour dialogue instead of engaging in wars and in-fighting. A number of African states have adopted this principle, thereby achieving peace treaties which reflected positively on their peoples. We now regard ourselves as African states in a transitional period heading for better times.

Here I wish to point out that the leaders on the African continent shoulder a great responsibility in solving disputes, whether they are internal or with neighboring states, by inclining toward constructive dialogue to achieve peace and tranquillity for this continent. The leaders of African states should also create a common basis for mutual understanding and negotiation between them so as to arrive at peaceful solutions which can satisfy all sides. [end recording]

The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, commented on the Ghanaian president's call for African solidarity as follows:

[Begin recording] [al-Bashir] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: We truly welcome the Ghanaian president on his short visit to Sudan. It is also a real opportunity, for which we are grateful. We will discuss the development of relations between Sudan and Ghana. We will also discuss problems affecting the African continent, be they of an economic, political, or security nature. It is a good opportunity, God willing. We welcome him to Sudan.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct].

[Al-Bashir] Naturally, we now feel that any foreign interference will weaken Africa and keep it divided and fragmented, because Africa possesses raw materials and vast resources. Brother Rawlings wants these resources to remain in reserve for the continued comfort of the northern part of the globe [sentence as heard]. We think that it is the right of African leaders to engage this conspiracy and attempt to transcend all their differences. We sit as Africans to discuss the development of the African continent and how to benefit from our resources [word indistinct] in the interests of the African citizen who has suffered for a very long (?time) from colonialism and post-colonial problems. [end recording]

Opposition, AAPSO Warn of Regime's Plans

NC1312195995 Cairo MENA in English 1902 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—The Islamic Front ruling regime in Sudan is trying to strike at many other ruling regimes in neighbouring countries, including Egypt, Uganda, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Kenya, through setting up companies inside these states in an

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attempt to dominate the economic situation, said Dr. 'Ali Abu-Sinnah, member of the Sudanese Democratic Grouping party.

These remarks came at a forum on Sudan's relations with neighbouring countries organised today by the Egyptian Committee for Solidarity with the Afro-Asian peoples [AAPSO].

Sudan is possessing financial institutions in Pakistan constituting a major financial source to the Sudanese regime, he added.

Also the Sudanese regime is trying to buy some other African leaders, who are playing an important political role in preventing international good offices to stop bloodshed in south Sudan, added Abu-Sinnah.

Also, Dr. Murad Ghalib, chairman of the Afro-Asian Peoples Organisation, warned against the danger of the Khartoum government's attempts to undermine stability and security in some neighbouring countries.

Also, 'Abdallah 'Ubayd, the committee's secretary general, referred to the impossibility of conducting dialogue with the Sudanese regime in light of its attempts for overthrowing ruling regimes in some Arab and Islamic states.

Garang-Led 'Liberation' Movement Repulses Attack

NC1312205095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nairobi, 13 Dec (MENA)—Pagan Amom, secretary of information and culture in the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Sudan [PMLS], led by Dr. John Garang, has asserted that the movement's forces repulsed a counteroffensive by government troops on the Kit 1 area.

He told MENA today that the attacking government forces lost 156 men and that 32 officers and soldiers were captured during clashes in the past two days. He said the clashes ended with the failure of the offensive and the retreat of the government forces to Juba.

He added that this was the fourth time PMLS forces had foiled the government forces' attacks on the Kit area, which is under PMLS control. Amom said the Sudanese Government's air force recently intensified its air raids using Antonov and MiG aircraft. He said the Sudanese Government recently acquired six new MiG-21's from China and that Iran paid the price of the deal.

Al-Turabi on Dayton Accord, Regional Issues

EA1312204295 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The secretary general of the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, PAIC, Dr. Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi, affirmed that the special relations between Sudan and Iran do not represent any malice against any country or body, explaining that these relations emanate from religious values and future Islamic conceptions. Interviewed by the correspondent of the IRANIAN NEWS AGENCY, IRNA, Dr. al-Turabi asserted the strong ties linking the Sudanese and Iranian people. He pointed out that the enemies of Sudan and Iran are fearing the Islamic awareness, adding that the world is apprehensive of the renaissance of Islam, so they attempt to tarnish its image and describe Muslims as terrorists.

Dr. al-Turabi described the Dayton Agreement for solving the problem between Bosnia and Serbia as a plot aimed at eradicating Islam in Bosnia in a way which resembles eradicating Islam in Europe 500 years ago.

As regards the current settlement in the Middle East, Dr. al- Turabi said that the stands of [words indistinct] adopted by some Arab leaders, because it contradicts the Islamic attitudes as well as [words indistinct].

He attributed the strained relations between the Sudan and Egypt to the jealousy of the Egyptian regime to Sudan, particularly following the achievements and progress scored by the Sudan not only in the field of national aspirations but also in some political and economic fields. Dr. al-Turabi further explained that the Egyptian regime expressed its indignation against the Sudan through different ways such as [the] Hala'ib issue and the allegation that the Sudan is sponsoring elements of the Egyptian opposition described as hosting of (?some) parties [words indistinct]. He pointed out that Egypt has collaborated with some parties around the country to (?disturb) the relations with Sudan.

He affirmed that the (?Sudanese) citizens do welcome peace from wherever it comes but they are ready to fight if the war is imposed on them. Dr. al-Turabi said that the national consensus can be seen presently in all parts of the country.

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Kuwait

Minister Tells of Iraqi Activity Against Nation

LD1212142295 Tehran IRNA in English 1409 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Conakry, Dec. 12, IRNA — Iraq has stolen billions of dollars of Kuwait's wealth and has imprisoned 620 Kuwaiti citizens and a number of nationals of other countries residing in Kuwait, said Kuwait's Awqaf and Islamic Affairs minister, 'Ali al-Zumai', here Monday [11 December].

Al-Zumai', who was talking to IRNA correspondent on the sidelines of the ongoing 23rd foreign ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), added that Iraq previously denied taking Kuwaiti captives but has now admitted that it has taken 200 Kuwaitis to Iraq.

Al-Zumai' said that Iraq refuses to give details on the fate of the Kuwaiti captives and claims that they might have been killed in the anti-regime uprising in Iraq.

The Kuwaiti minister while calling for settlement of certain misunderstandings between Iran and some Arab countries in a peaceful manner, stressed that Arab countries should have solid relations with Iran. Al-Zumai' described Iran-Kuwait relations as excellent and said Iran and Kuwait have historical and cordial ties.

Saudi Arabia

CDLR on Alleged Power Struggle Between King's Brothers

MM1312143395 London CDLR MONITOR in Arabic 11 Dec 95

[Communique No. 42 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, (CDLR): "King's Illness and Seriousness of Stage Ahead" — received by fax on 12 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] To inform the nation of the facts and what is happening, because this has a direct effect on its future and destiny, the Committee has decided to brief the nation on the corroborated information it has received about the new developments after the king's recent illness.

The Committee has ascertained that the king's health condition is very bad, and that he was moved to a private intensive care unit in his palace. It has medical facilities more advanced than those in specialist hospitals. The Committee has also ascertained that half of the king's body was completely paralyzed and that he lost the ability to speak. It has also been ascertained that the picture of the king shown on television was a picture of an old session the king had held after an illness that he suffered nearly a year ago. The Committee has also learned that the king's brothers — Sultan, Salman, and Nayif — were behind that fabrication in a bid to reinforce their position and the conspiracy they are preparing in order to preempt the other party.

However, the most dangerous thing that the Committee has learned is that Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz gathered members of the Senior Ulema Council in the absence of Prince 'Abdallah, who was in Muscat attending the Gulf summit, and requested them to pledge their allegiance to him as king. He tried to convince them that 'Abdallah is not fit to govern and that his refusal to relinquish the [National] Guard when he was told to is an incitement to sedition. He said that he [Sultan] is seeking more than just to seize the seat of power, and requested the ulema to support him in his efforts to dismiss him ['Abdallah] and to appoint 'Abd-al-Rahman, currently deputy defense minister, in his place as National Guard commander.

Naturally, the ulema rejected the request, and Sultan failed to keep the matter secret. The Committee has also learned that since that attempt failed Sultan and his brothers have not stopped hatching other plots to preempt 'Abdallah.

O people of the peninsula,

This call is addressed to the nation as a whole and to its legitimate and social leadership, especially as the situation presages a great danger. Fahd's criminal brothers, who are in complete control of the media and politics, are completing their crime by concealing important and serious events from the nation, which they deal with as a herd of animals who do not know where they are heading until they will eventually find themselves implicated in a bloody war which they have nothing to do with — a war whose fires are ignited by Sultan and his brothers, who are raising the slogan: "Power is ours, otherwise we are going to pull down the wall on both us and our enemies."

O people of the peninsula,

The crisis is so close to you. So do not be implicated in supporting those whose hands have committed one crime after another against preachers and reformists, squandered the nation's resources, mortgaged its riches with the enemies, tampered with the Shari'ah, and distorted Islam's image.

As for the other party, it is urged at this stage to look ahead, shoulder the historic responsibility, and work to restore rights. If the nation finds anyone seeking to apply the Shari'ah, establish justice, and resolve grievances, defend the [Islamic] call, respect reformists,

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and rid the nation of the hegemony of foreign powers, it will certainly work to support him. The first step in this connection is the unconditional release of the detainees so that they can assume the social leadership to safeguard society and lead it to safety.

Pilgrimage Minister, Iranian Envoy Discuss Hajj

LD1312195895 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pilgrimage Minister Dr. Mahmud Bin-Muhammad Safar received in his office today Mohammad 'Ali Hadi, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the meeting the two sides held friendly talks and discussed a number of issues relating to joint coordination aimed at reinforcing cooperation in the areas and affairs concerning hajj.

Yemen

Claims of Clashes on Saudi Borders Said 'Baseless'

MM1312163095 London AL-HAYAH 13 Dec 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Mustafa Shihab: "Higher Saudi-Yemeni Committee to Convene in Riyadh"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The meetings of the join Higher Saudi-Yemeni Committee will begin in Riyadh next Saturday [16 December]. Sources have told AL-HAYAH that the aim is to advance the work of the joint committees arising from the memorandum of understanding signed by Saudi Arabia and Yemen in Mecca in February.

The kingdom denied that its forces tried to cross into Yemeni territory or made any movements near the border. A Defense Ministry source said that reports of such movements are absolutely untrue.

The Saudi side in the Higher Committee is headed by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and defense and aviation minister, while the Yemeni side is headed by Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, who stressed to AL-HAYAH over the telephone that reports of clashes or military incursions on the border between the two countries are absolutely baseless. [passage omitted]

AL-Ahmar told AL-HAYAH that he will head for Riyadh at the head of a delegation comprising Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Interior Minister Husayn Muhammad 'Arab, and Yemeni Chief of Staff 'Ali 'Ulaywah to hold the first meeting of the Higher Saudi Yemeni Committee. [passage omitted]

Official Denies Telling Press About Border Movements

LD1312163295 Riyadh SPA in English 1246 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Dammam, Dec 13, SPA — Yemeni Under Secretary of the Foreign Ministry Ghalib Ali Jamaal has vehemently denied circulating reports which claimed that a Yemeni Foreign Ministry official had told the ASSOCIATED PRESS that there were movements on the border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

In a statement to the al-Dammam-based Arabic-language daily AL-YAWM published today, Jamaal said Yemen was keen on boosting relations with Saudi brothers and having cordial, brotherly ties and cooperation with the kingdom, in line with the al-Ta'if accord and the memorandum of understanding signed by the two countries.

The Yemeni official also underscored his country's keenness on enhancing the negotiations with Saudi Arabia in a cordial atmosphere.

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Saddam Receives 'Udayy's Cable on Leader's Campaigns

JN1312133895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received a cable from 'Udayy Saddam Husayn on the occasion of accomplishing the works of the land, air, and naval campaigns of the leader's call, the campaigns of hardware production, and the development of various systems. In the cable, 'Udayy pledged to his excellency to remain willing to accept martyrdom for the sake of God, the homeland, and the leader.

Following is the text of the cable:

With great pride, we had the honor of being entrusted with numerous works which we supervised and followed up, along with our comrades who worked under my supervision for more than a year. Today, we managed, with God's help and your sound directives, to accomplish all these works with much seriousness, care, and perseverance, coupled with invention and creative initiative, in order to implement your excellency's orders that our activities should continue regarding what we were entrusted to do and on the basis of set times, after which things will return to their normal course.

Leader President: The works of the land, air, and naval campaigns of the leader's call, the hardware production campaign, and the development of various systems were accomplished with much modesty, love, and sincerity in a way that serves Iraq and its leader, perpetuates the joy of victory, and enhances the march toward victory. God be praised, we reiterate that your excellency expressed great interest in what we presented and accomplished.

Leader President: As you have always known, I, and my comrades, will remain your faithful soldiers and sincere sons. We will continue to be a sword in your right hand which cuts the necks of renegades and a bright pen which writes your penetrating thoughts. Moreover, we will continue to be willing to accept martyrdom for the sake of God, the homeland, and the leader. We will preserve and safeguard the pledge. Ordeals will only increase our clear and constant brilliance which will light the road toward victory under your kind leadership. May God preserve you as the best leader, father, and comrade.

Saddam Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Economy

JN1312131795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Dec 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, lauded the ministries, departments, and installations for their fast and deep response to the meanings of his excellency's message to the cabinet members and to his remarks at the 41st cabinet session held on 2 December 1995 as well as to his call for confronting inflation by all means, for curbing and reducing the general government expenditure, for activating the production and paid services, and for increasing the state's revenues in general.

His excellency said: This response only indicates a high sense of responsibility and a living pursuit of the pioneering role in inventing means and alternatives for a better performance with the lowest possible expenses.

His excellency added: The other required task is to encourage the surplus cash liquidity in the Iraqi economy—which is sometimes invested in parasitic activities and speculations—and channel it toward useful investment or for activating the industrial and agricultural production and services to increase the displayed goods and the supportive activities. This is a useful and sound investment whether under normal or difficult conditions.

His excellency said: If we can carry out these tasks with creative determination and faithful, militant thinking, then the plans and wishes of the evil ones waylaying Iraq will fail. Moreover, the Iraqis' crossing will be performed with the least difficulties and scratches.

This came in an important and comprehensive speech by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, while chairing the 42d cabinet session. This speech complements his excellency's speech at the previous session.

During the cabinet's discussion of the system of incentives for implementing the projects listed on the cabinet's agenda, his excellency the president said that this system should not allow incentives to become part of the system of salaries and wages. This system seeks to upgrade performance and increase productivity; it also seeks to lessen the costs of the implementation, installation, and operation of civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering works and consulting operations, and quality control and other operations. Such a concept conflicts with the bases of our socialist system which seeks to establish individual incentives within the framework of the general incentives for innovators with new ideas,

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for those who work and succeed in cutting expenses or the duration while preserving the appropriate specifications, or for those who work to improve quality and decrease waste or find new alternatives for maintenance works and services.

These individual efforts should be apparent and effective within the framework of the overall efforts. Thus, through their contributions, they would record levels of performance that could become a model to some or that could be viewed as a challenge that will make others compete with the innovators or surpass them in terms of excellence for attaining better creative work.

Following the discussion, the cabinet adopted the system of incentives for the implementation of projects. The cabinet also called for the need to discuss the maintenance of irrigation and drainage projects with the governors, the local people's assemblies, and the farmers to define the responsibility and tasks of each party.

The cabinet also discussed the delivery and receipt system, and the protection of the state's assets. The cabinet adopted the system and stressed the need to hold training courses, refresher classes, and seminars to explain its provisions and what they entail to the workers in the state establishments and departments on all levels.

Objections to King Husayn Partition 'Plan' Aired

MM1312133295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Dec 95 p 17

[Article by Ahmad al-Habbubi, a politician residing in Cairo: "Iraq Needs a National Plan and Not a Partitioning Plan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been a great deal of talk and comment about King Husayn's recent statements that he is working toward, or encourages, or favors establishing a federation between the Sunnis, the Shiites, and the Kurds in Iraq, because he thinks that these three "groups" which form the Iraqi people's "fabric" need such a federation since this fabric has been torn by Saddam Husayn's actions; that the time has come to mend this tear; and that "establishing this federation's charter" will protect Iraq's unity in the future and will guard it against fragmentation, the seeds of which were planted by Saddam Husayn's reckless policy....

I must admit that I am puzzled by King Husayn's statements on two counts.

First, because — after accepting the defection of Husayn Kamil and his group to Jordan — he said that he was surprised at the extent of the tragedy and the weight of the burden under which the Iraqi people are collapsing and that he did not know...until he was told about it by Husayn Kamil.

Secondly, his statements about the federation and his proposal of a plan for brotherliness for the Iraqi people's factions.

With regard to the first point, my pen has rebelled and insists on reciting verses from the famous poem: "It's a disaster if you didn't know, but if you did, it's even more so."

Is it really true that the Jordanian monarch did not know what Saddam Husayn has done to Iraq's people during all these years, and does not know, for example, what happened in the war operations in which Saddam Husayn exterminated tens of thousands of Kurds, buried some of them alive in mass graves, and destroyed hundreds of their villages? Did he not hear of the tragedy of the Kurdish city of Halabjah that Saddam pounded with chemical weapons, leaving 5,000 dead on its charred land? Did he not hear about the slaughter committed by Saddam Husayn against the Iraqi people on the pretext of quelling the 1991 popular uprising which spread to all of Iraq's cities from north to south, killing thousands in the full view and within earshot of the civilized world? And before all that, did he not hear of the random executions and arrests, the torture, the rapes, the international human rights organizations' reports about abnormal laws which provide for chopping off hands and legs and tattooing foreheads, the cyanide tanks, and the police dogs savaging the victims while still alive? Were no reports heard about the revolting atrocities committed by the sons, brothers, cousins, in- laws, and relatives and about which everybody is talking? Did the hunger, high prices, begging, endemic crime, widespread corruption, lack of sovereignty, and loss of dignity not get known? How is it possible that Iraq's bereaved mothers' lament was not heard in Jordan, when Iraq is not so far from it and when the streets of Amman are full of the ugliest scenes of wretched humanity, about which the tongue is tied and some of which the sense of decency does not bear mentioning.

I do not think that they knew, otherwise they would not have established the Arab Cooperation Council with Saddam Husayn, and they would not have supported and helped him in his "holy" war against the Iran "of the Magus" even if he carried on screaming that "he was the guardian of the Arab homeland's eastern gateway"; they would not have believed the words "the offspring's return to the fold" with regard to Kuwait. Now, and only now, after Husayn Kamil's flight, the white thread is unraveled from the black and the vision is clearer!

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A beautiful thing, this affection for the Iraqi people, even if it is belated, now that they are in this state of poverty, hunger, and degradation. I do not need to remind anyone that the Iraqi people are not ungrateful to whoever is kind to them or stands by their side in times of difficulty and hardship, even if it is only with a kind, sympathetic, and honest word.

However, I will not hide the fact that King Husayn's recent statements about a federation were received with doubt, apprehension, and caution. Some are wondering maliciously: "Why is Jordan moving now? And where was it with regard to the Iraqi people's plight, democracy...and federalism? Why did it keep silent about Saddam Husayn's actions toward Iraq, Iraq's people, and the 'fabric of Iraq's people'?"

Some obstinate and rude people are even wondering whether this move is linked to the new order, which is required by the next phase and is being prepared for the region, with new players performing a new play on the stage.

The second puzzling element in the Jordanian monarch's statements about a federation is that it is undoubtedly the king's keenness to safeguard Iraq's people, their unity, and future which has led him to propose the plan for achieving brotherliness between factions, tendencies, elements, or divisions — "they are all metaphors" — to avoid disputes, fragmentation and partition. However, I know that there are no disputes, conflicts, or fighting between the Sunnis, the Shiites, and the Kurds. These, and with them all the groups of the Iraqi people, stand in one trench against Saddam Husayn. In legal terms, they all are his victims, whether as a group or individually. Saddam Husayn is the opponent of the Iraqi people as a whole without distinction between the north, the center, and the south. His tyranny and hostility extend to al-Mawsil and al-Sulaymaniyah, just as they extend to al-Ramadi, al-Basrah, and al- 'Amarah, for instance. He fought the Shiites singly, destroyed their cities and their imams' graves, killed their scholars, and wiped out the scientific achievements they acquired over the centuries. He fought the Kurds with the war operations, chemical weapons, the burning of the villages, and displacement. He fought the Sunnis for rebelling against him in spite of his enticements and for their discontent with his policy which is harmful to Iraq and the Arab nation. The latest example is the rebellion of the al-Dulaym Sunni tribes which waged a bloody battle with the regime resulting in many martyrs, among both the military and civilians. Have the Turkmens, the Assyrians, the Yazidis, and others among those included in the "fabric" been spared Saddam Husayn's tyranny and despotism?

Hence, the proposal of a federation of this type contains an intention to partition and fragment which is refused by all.

A third puzzling element springs to mind when I consider King Husayn's project, since I do not find in it, or in what has been written about it, any convincing indication of the reasons for singling out these three groups, namely the Sunnis, Shiites, and Kurds. If the choice is based on sectarian, national, or racial lines, then I do not believe that it fits with this analysis and option. I can almost categorically say that a call based on this premise will be rejected, because the Iraqi people have fought and are still fighting all partition plans under any cover or justification.

The idea that Iraq should be divided between Sunnis, Shiites, and Kurds along sectarian, religious, or racial lines, and hence to establish a federation between them as though they were groups, factions, and elements alien to each other and not part of a single fabric belonging to a single country where they have lived, coexisted, intermarried, and defended its land, is a dangerous game with implications extending beyond Iraq to encompass the Arab nation, too.

We should perhaps research and investigate the sectarian and racial disputes in the "fabric" of our Arab nation's peoples and work toward establishing federation agreements between Berbers and non-Berbers in Algeria, Tuaregs and Shanqit [as transliterated] in Mauritania, Copts and non-Copts in Egypt, al-Zaydi and al-Shafi'i in Yemen, etc....

This is not the way to repair the damage caused by a foolish ruler who harmed his people and nation. I remember the excellent letter sent by King Faysal I, King of Iraq in 1932, to Iraq's political leaders which contained ideas and principles — very advanced and far-sighted for the time — on how to rule people and safeguard their interests and unity, through honest and impartial work based on justice, virtue, and nondiscrimination between groups within a single people, and not by favoring one group at the expense of another, but instead for all to enjoy the country's wealth by having equal rights and duties without any discrimination on the basis of religion, sect, or race, under the protection of a constitution guaranteeing rights, protecting liberties, and separating the powers like the most advanced constitutions in the world's developed countries. The Iraqi constitution then was not guilty of any offense, transgression, or violation committed by any official anywhere.

It is true that our Arab region — Middle Eastern according to the new terminology — is on the threshold of new developments and order following the collapse

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of one of the world's powers, with the United States remaining as the only leader, and Israel joining our Arab region as a peace-loving member. However, none of this requires a reshuffle at the expense of the Arab nation and its peoples, for the sake of stability and reconstruction in a region based on black gold and whose sand dunes hide treasures of gold and precious metals of which all are eager to grab their share. The verses of the greatest Arab poet al-Jawahiri would apply to them: "When the meat on the grill was ready and the flames died, they came rushing and you knew not who was invited."

There are religious, national, and liberal parties, movements, and political organizations with different ideologies in the Iraqi arena. They all aim through their struggle and plans to achieve two basic objectives with which nobody disagrees: to topple Saddam Husayn's regime and to establish a democratic alternative in the Iraq of the future. What is really needed is to establish an Iraqi national formation which would carry out a phased salvation plan and coordinate the work inside and outside, based on clear ideas, in order to build the Iraq of tomorrow, the Iraq of all Iraqis without distinction by religious sect or race. This "formation" would not dispense with any unconditional help from a brother or friend, even in the form of advice or a kind word, which would take it closer to the day of deliverance.

Finally, I hope that no one will be offended by or "take umbrage" at these ideas of mine. My excuse is that I am an Arab citizen from Iraq who has spent most of his 60 years of life working and fighting to see one day his united Arab nation's banners proudly flying in the world's sky, and to see it take its rightful place among the world's nations...who now sees his country, Iraq, threatened by partition and fragmentation. In this case, I can only recite the poet's verses: "Come, O death, for life is offensive, O soul be serious for you have had your fun."

Turkomans Islamic Federation Official on Jordan 'Plan'

NC1312192595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Dec 95

[Interview with 'Abbas al-Bayyati, secretary general of the Islamic Federation of Iraq's Turkomans, by 'Isam Hasan; place and date not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] Some people view the Jordanian plan [proposed by King Husayn to gather all the Iraqi opposition factions at a meeting] as a trial balloon. Others believe the Jordanian plan is serious, objective, and enjoys support. What is your view at the Islamic Federation of the Iraqi Turkomans?

[Al-Bayyati] The Iraqi issue is not limited to a plan. The crisis is not one of plans so that various parties may compete to devise plans. The Iraqi issue is linked with the general situation in the region. It is linked with the question of peace with Israel, the policy of dual containment of Iraq and Iran, and with the escalating Islamic trend in the region.

We cannot separate the region's developments, especially in this information age in which the region and beyond have become a small village and developments affect each other. Iraq is part of the region and its issue cannot be solved separately from other regional issues.

I do not rule out the first view. True, I am not greatly inclined toward it but I do not rule it out, because experimenting with plans and proposals is a norm in handling international and regional crises. Many crises were handled this way until those concerned were tamed in line with a particular policy.

I am not among those who rule out the first view completely. I do not say it is a trial balloon but perhaps a way to test or tame the opposition, as it were, to accept such proposals if they are presented more strongly.

As for supporting the plan, we have sensed no international stance in support of this or that plan. If you look at a previous plan, the plan of the national congress or the Salah-al-Din plan, there were claims that it was supported by some parties and that it would achieve change. Later it became apparent that its aim was obvious—it aimed to create a trend within the Iraqi opposition.

'Arab Diplomats' Analyze Change in Jordan's Stand

NC1312163995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab diplomats in Vienna expect King Husayn's moves to back and unify the Iraqi opposition's efforts to upset the balance of power in the Middle East. They also expect the king's moves to restore Iraq's prestige and economic power, which is based on vast oil reserves and an enormous capacity to export oil.

In statements to our radio, these diplomats said they followed with concern the quick change in Jordan's official stand. This change, they added, began with a call to set up a new democratic system in Iraq to succeed the current dictatorial regime. The latest such move was the revelation of Saddam Husayn's arms purchases and the disclosure of his hostile intentions, they added.

They linked this change to the Baghdad ruler's loss of ability to maneuver, blackmail, and influence the region

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and even Iraq. They said even small countries like Jordan are no longer fearful of his revenge. They noted that despite Jordan's strong and sometimes provocative statements, the ruling regime and officials in Iraq kept completely silent and did not dare to criticize the Jordanian stand. They said this is contrary to the regime's previous policy, which was characterized by strong criticism and rebuke for the most trivial reasons.

The diplomats emphasized that the defection by Husayn Kamil and half of Saddam's family to Jordan provided King Husayn with greater influence in Iraq.

Concluding their statements, the Arab diplomats said the Jordanian monarch is pressing ahead with his efforts to provide the necessary cover for the Iraqi opposition's work and to host the oppositionists in Amman soon. They added that the King will not be discouraged by reservations shown by some parties in the region.

Three Opposition Movements Reportedly Merge

MM1312165495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Dec 95 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Organizations Merge Into One Party"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — Three Iraqi opposition organizations have announced their disbandment and merger into one party called the Homeland Party [hizb al-watan].

A statement — signed by the "Army Officers Movement for the Salvation of Iraq" [harakat dubbat al-jaysh li inqadh al-'iraq], the "Ba'th Vanguard Movement in Iraq" [harakat tala'i' al-ba'th fi al- 'iraq], the "Democratic Grouping for the Salvation of Iraq" [al-tajammu' al-dimukrati li inqadh al-'iraq], and independent political and military figures — said that "a provisional leadership has been appointed" to prepare for a constituent conference for the party. The statement, of which AL-HAYAH has received a copy, went on to say that "unified action, toppling the regime, and building a state of law, democracy, pluralism, freedom of expression, and peaceful rotation of power is the only guarantee for our people's adherence to their unity and for eliminating the partition danger threatening their political and social entity." The statement vehemently attacked "the repression, terrorism, and murder perpetrated by the dictatorial regime against our people." The statement pointed to "the emergence of calls aimed at fragmenting our people's social fabric and dividing them on an ethnic and sectarian basis." The statement warned of "plans designed to partition the homeland into weak sectarian and ethnic entities." The statement thanked King Husayn and Jordan "— government and people — for their support for the Iraqi people and their just cause." The statement called on King Husayn to "adhere to Iraq's unity for the sake of all the sons of Iraq except those who have nothing to do with Iraq." The statement praised Syrian's position of "confronting any plans to partition Iraq." The statement also praised "the adherence of sisters Saudi Arabia and Egypt to the unity of our homeland." The statement pointed out that "the provisional leadership has elected Mish'an al-Juburi as its head until the party's constituent conference is held."

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Announcement Expected on Resuming Talks With Syria

TA1412090395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's departure for Damascus and Jerusalem, Israeli sources in Washington say that Israel expects an announcement to be issued Saturday night [16 December] on the resumption of talks with Syria. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Zissowitz] Despite the efforts throughout Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Washington to lower expectations, Israel definitely expects tangible results from Christopher's upcoming visit. Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich will be leaving for Israel to join the talks with Christopher, who will be arriving in Jerusalem from Damascus, but he remains cautious.

[Rabinovich] What this visit must engender is concrete steps, which at the moment are not focused or centered on an announcement about the resumption of talks. However, I will not be surprised if one of the results of the visit is an announcement on the resumption of talks.

[Zissowitz] Each time he was asked, the prime minister pointedly said that he had not raised proposals about the substance of the arrangement with Syria during his visit. However, sources close to the negotiations say that in the talks with the U.S. President and Christopher, Israel proposed timetables for a withdrawal in conjunction with parallel progress in the establishment of relations between Israel and Syria. Also, in the meeting with the chairmen of prominent Congressional committees, the prime minister hinted that a breakthrough with Syria is expected during Christopher's upcoming visit, but he did not elaborate.

Ambassador Rabinovich says that in any event, we are not talking about an interim arrangement but only about negotiations concerning a comprehensive arrangement.

[Rabinovich] From the first day of the negotiations, the Syrian side made it amply and firmly clear that it is not prepared to accept any interim arrangement and that it wants only a comprehensive arrangement. We respected and still respect this wish.

[Zissowitz] Will the Americans make their own proposals? Israeli sources say that it will not happen this time, but perhaps in the future as progress is made in the talks. [end recording]

Peres Proposes 'Open-Ended Flexibility' With Syrians

TA1412081995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Dec 95

[Studio talk by anchorpersons 'Oded Ben-'Ami and Mikhal Gazit and political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ben-'Ami] Udi Segal was aboard Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' plane, and he landed earlier this morning in Israel at the end of the prime minister's visit to the United States and Morocco. We hear that the prime minister estimates that it will take one to two months before it becomes clear which of the ideas he raised in Washington to advance the negotiations with Syria is acceptable to Damascus. We know that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is leaving Washington tonight en route to Damascus. He will confer with President Hafiz al-Asad tomorrow and then come to Israel.

[Segal] What Peres is actually saying is that he wants to create a situation in which it will be difficult for al-Asad to reject the proposals aimed at resuming the negotiations. Peres has coined a new term to describe his policy: open-ended flexibility. This means that he will accept any format for negotiations chosen by the Syrian president just as long as he agrees to resume the discussions.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher begins his shuttle mission today. He will arrive in Damascus today and will come to Israel tomorrow to update Peres on what he heard from al-Asad. Last night, aboard the plane taking us from Morocco back to Israel, Peres told us: I do not expect that in just one visit by Christopher we will receive final answers from Syria.

[Begin Peres recording] I estimate that it will take one or two months before it becomes clear what is acceptable and what is not. I do not foresee this happening in one or two visits. I appreciate the fact that we have shifted to a more restrained discourse with the Syrians which is devoid of mutual accusations and threats. I believe that this is necessary to create a climate amenable to negotiations. [end recording]

[Segal] Peres and the Israeli team are waiting to hear from Christopher about the Syrian approach, which will be examined later this week, during Christopher's visit. Peres believes that the process should start from the top; that is, from a summit meeting between him and al-Asad. He nevertheless asserted: I have no conditions. There is unlimited flexibility; there is no bazaar climate in these negotiations.

Peres ended his visit to Morocco last night with support for the idea of the regional peace that he has been trying

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to promote and with the assessment of King Hassan II that the signing of a peace treaty with Syria will bring other Arab countries to establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

[Begin Peres recording] The idea is quite simple. I am afraid that if we fail to take advantage of the negotiations with Syria to attain a comprehensive arrangement in the Middle East, we will once again find ourselves making peace with yet another country while hostility prevails elsewhere. I think this is an opportunity that must not be missed to put an end to the entire state of war in the Middle East, including the Arab boycott, the hatred, and the hostility. In my opinion, it is worthwhile to try it. [end recording]

[Segal] Incidentally, Yasir 'Arafat and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak recently phoned President Hafiz al-Asad and relayed to him the following regional message: You are faced with an exceptional opportunity to finish business with Israel. You should not miss it.

[Ben-'Ami] Did you hear about the Syrian reactions in the course of the visit to Washington and certainly to Morocco? What was the prime minister's reaction to the Syrian response to the statements he made in Washington?

[Segal] He spoke about satisfactory reactions, about the fact that the Syrians seemed to have liked his proposals. Peres and Christopher reviewed the entire list of proposals before leaving Washington. He relayed to al-Asad a series of proposals that start from the top, with a summit meeting between him and al-Asad, followed by the ministerial level and the level of ambassadors. Whatever al-Asad wants he is prepared to deliver, the purpose being to create a situation in which al-Asad will not be able to say no. In other words, whatever al-Asad wants Peres is prepared to do.

[Gazit] You talk about unlimited flexibility. Are there no red lines?

[Segal] We are not talking about the substance, about Israel's positions in the negotiations, but about the format. Peres is saying that there are no longer any restrictions on the procedural issue. What he is saying is: I do not care whether the talks are held by officers, ambassadors, or junior or senior officials; I do not care about the venue — they may be held in Cyprus, Damascus, Jerusalem, or Washington. I want to start negotiations from the beginning; I want to conduct matter-of-fact negotiations with the Syrians.

Peres Denies Handing Clinton 'Interim Deal' Proposal

TA1412105595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Dec 95 p A2

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres attributes great importance to the decision of 10 U.S. Congressmen who have changed their minds and now support sending U.S. forces to Bosnia. Peres said it was important for him to show the President that Israel can help him change positions in Congress as far as U.S. international involvement is concerned. It was also important to show that Israel supports international aid to a Muslim country that has been hard hit by war. Peres' statements regarding U.S. involvement in Bosnia were made according to a request made by President Clinton in their meeting.

Peres described Secretary of Defense William Perry as "charming" and said that following his visit the military aid to Jordan will be expanded. Jordan will receive 16 F-16 jet fighters instead of 12, as originally planned.

Answering a question as to why Israel needs tighter strategic relations with the United States in a period of peace, Peres said: "We do not need strategic relations vis-a-vis peace, rather with regard to dangers. The real danger is fundamentalism, and I suggest that we prepare for future dangers rather than past dangers."

[Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 14 December includes an unattributed report on pp 1, 2, adding: "Prime Minister Peres denied the report published by HA'ARETZ yesterday according to which in their private meeting, he proposed to Clinton an 'interim deal' including a 'de facto Israeli recognition of the Syrian presence in Lebanon, which will enable Israel to pull out of south Lebanon in return for guarantees of stability in Lebanon and security for Israel. President Clinton does not have to answer such a proposal for the simple reason that such a proposal was not made,' Peres said and added that 'the HA'ARETZ report is baseless.'"]

Baraq Views Conditions for Golan Withdrawal

TA1312145895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq says we should not argue about border lines on the Golan Heights before Syria clarifies what it is willing to contribute toward an arrangement in the Middle East. Baraq said that the depth of withdrawal will undoubtedly be linked to an entire range of issues, including water, security arrangements, and the nature and scope of peace. The foreign minister estimates that

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within two or three weeks we will know whether Syria accepts the challenge put before it. Minister Baraq spoke with correspondents after meeting Karl Lindbom, head of the team appointed to supervise the elections in the territories. Our correspondent Gil Litman adds that approximately 700 supervisors will arrive in order to observe 1,500 ballot boxes.

Beilin Says Progress With Syria Possible

TA1412132995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is leaving tonight for Damascus for a meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that Christopher's visit will not necessarily provide Syrian replies to Israel's offers at this time.

Minister Yosi Beilin said today he believes it may be possible to attain a peace agreement with Syria within a few months, provided an agreement on the negotiations' procedure is made in a week or two. He spoke to Razi Barqay this morning:

[Begin Beilin recording] I believe that if a breakthrough with the Syrians is attained — because a solution with them is much simpler than the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians — the negotiations part may be short. If a breakthrough is attained within two weeks, I believe that we could reach intensive negotiations that last several months and lead to an agreement. [end recording]

Touring the Golan Heights today, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that in the near future, the Likud will make a serious effort to bring the Golan special majority bill back for a Knesset vote. He toured the Golan with the members of the Likud Political Bureau. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz joined them.

[Begin recording] [Horowitz] Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu arrived in the Golan Heights to apprise the bureau members, and mainly the numerous reporters who joined him, of the security problems that might be caused if Israel cedes territories there. He was referring to the government attempts to resume the negotiations with Syria.

[Netanyahu] I heard Mr. Peres say that making progress with Syria is more important to him than winning the elections. The truth is the very opposite: Mr. Peres is pursuing the move with Syria because he wants to win the elections. He knows quite well that if all he has to show for himself is the Oslo agreement and its sorry results, there is a reasonable chance that Labor would lose the elections. This is why he is seeking a grand production of new peace festivities, all types of shows and fireworks, with which to mislead the public and convince it to return the Golan. The price will be both the Golan Heights and our security, but Labor is willing to pay a lot to win the elections.

[Horowitz] Asked about the possibility that David Levi will return to the Likud, Netanyahu said he would like all those who have quit the Likud to return. It is not a question of partisan or personal matters; we must join the ranks of the national camp, Netanyahu said. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1205 GMT carries a report on Netanyahu's Golan visit. In a recorded passage Netanyahu says: "It is obvious that positive signals are coming from Damascus. Peres is giving away more and more and, as long as he does, Damascus will praise him. Why should it not? Anyone can do what Peres is doing — he is surrendering to Syrian dictates, giving them everything, and returning Israel to the dangerous 1967 lines."

[Asked whether he believes a peace accord with Syria is possible without a withdrawal from the Golan, he says: "An arrangement that entails ceding the Golan will not be a peace arrangement; it will be preparing the ground for the next war. A true peace accord with any Arab state must, first and foremost, be constructed in a way that would prevent the option of war from the Arab side." He added that the government is leading us into a situation in which "for a signed piece of paper, Syria will assume locations from which it could launch an attack against us at any time and violate the agreement whenever it chooses."]

Minister on U.S. Bridging Document on Syrian Track

TA1412110995 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew 14 Dec 95 p 1

[Report by Daniyel Ben-Simon and Dan Avidan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A senior minister who asked to remain anonymous yesterday told DAVAR RISHON that the U.S. secretary of state will inform President al-Asad of Israel's willingness to recognize Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights. " During his meeting with al-Asad," the minister added, "Christopher will present al-Asad with a document detailing Israel's position. This thing will lead to a dramatic change in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations."

The minister, who carries a senior position during the prime minister's absence from the country, said that

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Israel and the United States expect very positive results from Secretary of State Christopher's visit to Damascus.

"The most significant change stems from the fact that the United States has changed its position from that of a passive mediator carrying messages from one side to the other, to an active mediator drafting position papers and bridging proposals," the minister said. "I am familiar with a 'white paper' Christopher plans to submit to al-Asad, which details U.S. positions that can bridge the gaps between Israel and Syria."

The senior minister believes that the Israeli announcement about its recognition of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights will appear in the U.S. bridging document. "This will satisfy President al-Asad and will naturally result in an upgrading of the talks to the political level," he said.

The senior minister added that Prime Minister Peres has asked President Clinton to conduct the Israeli-Syrian negotiations in a Camp David conference format, thus enabling the two sides to clarify their positions with active U.S. involvement.

"An agreement signed before the elections will bring about the result Peres is striving to attain — an end to the conflict between Israel and the Arab world, thus enabling the leaders of the Arab countries and Gulf Emirates to come to Israel. If the Arab leaders come to Jerusalem, Mount Sinai, or any other symbolic site, this will make it easier for the Israeli public to digest the price Israel has to pay for full peace with Syria. I have no doubt that such a move will drastically change the political map and will certainly result in Peres' reelection as prime minister in the next elections," the senior minister said. [passage omitted]

Paper Calls For Measured U.S. Involvement on Syria

TA1312145995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Dec 95 p B1

[Editorial: "Chances and Gaps"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. President did not mince words two days ago. He most unequivocally and openly stated the U.S. commitment to Israel's security. He directly addressed the prime minister with the words "I am your partner in peace," and expressed his willingness to get personally involved in peacemaking between Israel and Syria, a process in which he sees a historic turnabout that will bring about a comprehensive change in the Middle East. As a gesture, albeit of a symbolic nature, he invited an Israeli astronaut to join a U.S. space shuttle mission.

Shim'on Peres came out of the White House with the conviction that the tight and personal partnership that existed between Clinton and Rabin will be carried on as long as he remains in office. The warm reception can be attributed to, among other things, the election years in the United States and Israel, but this detracts nothing from the U.S. commitment to Israel for the foreseeable future.

Beautiful statements, however, are not enough to bring about a peace agreement between Israel and Syria. Peres hinted about a change in the negotiating style: He is now willing to discuss all the issues rather than restricting the negotiations to security arrangements. He also agrees to regard peace itself as a means to safeguard Israel's security, and perhaps this points to concessions on other issues. A change of style by itself, however, will not suffice.

The soft voices emanating from Syria cannot conceal its uncompromising demands: A full withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the 4 June 1967 line (rather than to the international border); a rejection of the proposal to deploy Israeli forces or equipment on Syrian land; and the demand for full symmetry in the demilitarized zone. Unlike Israel, which has occasionally changed its positions regarding a withdrawal from the Golan Heights and its policy on the early warning stations, Syria has remained consistent in its positions since the Madrid conference four and a half years ago.

It appears that Syria and Israel have reached the apex in their bargaining positions, with each side knowing precisely what the other side's final and definitive position is. Consequently, U.S. help, and even the personal involvement of President Clinton, are essential. In the absence of the Soviet Union and due to Russia's weakness, President al-Asad wants to share with Israel this partnership with the United States and has already sought U.S. involvement on several occasions, not merely as a go-between, but more in the capacity of a guarantor.

Al-Asad wants the United States to carry out the role given to it at the Madrid conference. Israel has no reason to find fault in this demand seeing that Israel accepted in advance the joint sponsorship of Russia and the United States in the peace process. It is true that Rabin wanted to set the principle of direct negotiations with Syria without any mediators. This is basically a sound principle, but sometimes mediators are needed to advance the negotiations. If Peres believes that he can attain more by using U.S. mediators there is no reason not to attempt this method.

U.S. involvement, however, should also be restricted. There is a difference between U.S. guarantees or spon-

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sorship, aiding and facilitating the negotiations with Clinton's involvement, and between independent American proposals and solutions which may put Israel in the tight spot of having to give a negative answer not only to Syria, but to the United States as well. It should be remembered that this peace agreement will be signed between Israel and Syria rather than between Israel and the United States.

Baraq on Territories Elections, Talks With Syria

TA1312172695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq described the prime minister's trip to Washington as successful. Baraq said he believed Israel would consider taking far-reaching risks in negotiations but it must first be clarified whether Syria is a real partner for peace. Baraq was speaking to reporters after meeting today with Karl Lindbom, who heads the European observer force overseeing next month's elections in the territories. On the upcoming Palestinian elections, Baraq told Idele Ross that some logistical problems remained to be worked out with the observers:

[Begin recording] [Baraq] There are still some problems that we will try to solve together with them, and some of them together with the Palestinians. In fact, they are going to bring here almost 700 observers to inspect or observe activities in more than 1,500 voting places or ballots, and it's quite a complicated operation that we think, or deem to be important.

[Ross] How do you, as someone who is very involved in the redeployment, in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal, answer the charges from certain corners, certain places, that the redeployment is going along too hastily, that things are not quite ready?

[Baraq] With the Palestinians we have a blueprint agreed upon in the Oslo 2 agreement, and we expect our partners to behave according to their agreements and we demand the same from ourselves. We will implement the agreement according to what we signed in letter and spirit. So even if some road would not be fully completed and people will have to drive on an unpaved road the last one mile it's worth living up to our commitments and not delaying. I hope that the other side will also live up to his commitments and that there will be no delays.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 13 December adds: "Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq says Israel does not object to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] participation in the elections in the territories on condition that it is done according to the stipulations of the interim accord. Baraq told the head of the international observer force for the elections in the territories that Israel will do everything possible to help the Palestinian election apparatus in a bid to enable the candidates to run for office in a completely free manner."]

[Ross] On what is the dispute between Syria and Israel predicated?

[Baraq] The Syrians for a very long time raised their demands for a public, irreversible Israeli commitment to them on the border of 4 June 1967 as a kind of precondition for entering into substantial discussion of other aspects. We perceive it as a kind of gestalt, as something where everything is dependent on everything else. We are looking for crossing the point of no return on the way to overall peace in the Middle East. So we want, first of all, to see the quality of peace, the comprehensiveness of peace, namely the inclusion of Lebanon and possibly the Maghreb countries and Gulf states to open relations, normal relations with Israel. And we are looking into the problem of water, into the problem of terror, and we are looking into security arrangements and into early warning arrangements, and within the context of all these elements we are ready to consider far-reaching calculated risks in regard to the depth of withdrawal. But we don't want to enter into specifics or details before it becomes clear whether we have partners on the Syrian side.

[Ross] So you really think something tangible, substantive was achieved during Peres' visit to the United States?

[Baraq] Peres presented to them a major initiative. He opened almost every possible approach on procedures, and he suggested a much wider spectrum of problems and aspects of an overall peace to be dealt with simultaneously with the other problems vis-a-vis the Syrians. We expect now the Syrian response. It takes two to tango. We are ready but we cannot perform the role of both sides.

[Ross] And how many does it take to debka [traditional Arab dance]?

[Baraq] To debka it might take two dancers and one dancer-observer or trainer, an American one preferably that will sit on the side. [end recording]

Protest Lodged With PA Over Nabulus Rioting

TA1312131895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Dec 95 p 2

[Report by Gabi Baron, Roni Shaqed, and Tzvi Singer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has lodged a sharp protest with the Palestinian Authority [PA] over the incidents

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that took place in Nabulus on 11 December during the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] evacuation of the town.

The IDF attributes the widespread rioting around and inside the Civil Administration building to a leak to the media by one of the Palestinian officers. The officer was not happy with the agreement reached with the IDF on the evacuation of the town and decided to sabotage it.

Immediately after the item was broadcast by Israel Television's Arabic channel, a Palestinian crowd gathered around the Civil Administration building and began violent demonstrations.

The pictures of IDF soldiers beating a hasty retreat from Nabulus, with the Palestinian crowd in the background cursing, spitting, and burning the Israeli flag evoked sharp reactions yesterday on both sides of the political spectrum:

Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal: "The burning of the Israeli flag requires urgent discussion. We cannot let this matter pass, not just as a matter of honor but in order to avoid eliciting further violations of the agreements."

Knesset Member [MK] Hagay Merom, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee: "I regret the way things happened in Nabulus and I think it calls for drawing conclusions. The IDF must never run away from anywhere, definitely not from a place it controls. Such an event could lead the Palestinians to believe that the IDF can be chased out of other locations. The IDF will have to explain this incident to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee."

Likud Faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav: "This is no way to make peace. Burning the Israeli flag in front of IDF troops and spitting at soldiers is tantamount to spitting in the face of the government. Israel and the Palestinians are on a collision course and a crash is inevitable."

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu: "The incidents in Nabulus were a shameful spectacle of Palestinian euphoria over their victory. The pictures of IDF soldiers helplessly fleeing against the background of burning Israeli flags speaks louder than a thousand words about the nature of this peace, the nature of the agreement with the PLO, and the way the PLO members see the future arrangement. Peace will not be achieved by projecting weakness and fear. "

Labor Faction Chairman Ra'anan Kohen: "This is not the IDF that I know. If what was shown by the media is true, then the situation is extremely grave. We need to get all the information in order to understand what happened there."

Meretz Chairman Ran Kohen: "I am shocked and upset by the burning of the Israeli flag. The government must place full responsibility for this matter on the PA and demand that it punish the perpetrators of this disgrace to the full extent of the law."

Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or rejected the criticism of the way Nabulus was evacuated. Or said: "If we would have left Nabulus as planned, it would have been ten times worse."

According to Or, the pullout was proceeding as planned until the demonstrators arrived. The Palestinian policemen who arrived to replace the IDF troops behaved well. Or said: "The alternative was a great deal of bloodshed. All things being said, the evacuation turned out all right, although it was also accompanied by rioting. Those who are busy making comments now were simply not there and do not know a thing. What did they expect, that the Palestinians would see the IDF out with rice and flowers."

Peres: Settlers Not To Be Compensated

TA1312190495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Dec 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Peres has said that the Israeli Government will not compensate settlers who leave the territories. He made these remarks in an interview with the ultra-Orthodox newspaper HAMAHANE HAHAREDI which will be published on 14 December. He added: We are not asking any settler to leave the territories, and we will not compensate them for leaving, or else this will turn into a business for the State of Israel.

Beilin Says Against Compensating Settlers

TA1412124295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Dec 95 p 2

[Report by Herb Keinon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel should retain control of Ma'ale Adumim, Betar, Pisgat Ze'ev, Gush 'Etzyon and settlements in Western Samaria in a final agreement with the Palestinians, Minister Yosi Beilin told a Peace Now delegation yesterday.

According to Mossy Raz, Peace Now's political secretary, Beilin said the strip of settlements in Western Samaria would include Ari'el. Beilin reportedly said the government's goal is to keep under Israeli control "the maximum number of settlers on the minimum amount of territory."

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Raz said the Peace Now delegation met with Beilin to clarify statements attributed to Beilin recently, including a comment that he does not support the uprooting of settlements, including the settlement in Hebron.

Another point of disagreement, Raz said, was over the building of Jewish neighborhoods in Ra's al-'Amud in eastern Jerusalem, and Har Homa in southern Jerusalem, near Bayt Sahur.

Peace Now objected to the construction of the Jewish neighborhoods in eastern Jerusalem, while, according to Raz, Beilin said there is a consensus in the Labor Party concerning Jerusalem, and the party does not object to the construction.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 14 December on page A4 includes an ITIM report on the meeting between Beilin and the Peace Now activists adding: "Minister Yosi Beilin yesterday told senior Peace Now activists that he opposes the proposal to compensate settlers who want to leave the West Bank and return to live within the Green Line."

["Whereas the Peace Now activists claimed that such compensation would encourage settlers to return to the confines of the Green Line, Beilin claimed that it would have the opposite effect. He said it is to be feared that once compensation is given to settlers, more settlers will arrive in the West Bank in the hope of obtaining compensation when the next stage of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment is implemented."]

Lubrani: Iran To Use Bosnia To Attack U.S. Targets

TA1412103995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, told U.S. officials in Washington that Iran is trying to turn Bosnia into a base of activity against U.S. interests in Europe. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said last night that the United States today understands the Iranian threat better and that there is deeper cooperation between Israel and the United States on the issue. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Segal] Shim'on Peres, just like his predecessor the late Yitzhaq Rabin, points to Iran as the greatest threat to the Middle East and the world at large. In various appearances in the United States, Peres said that the Iranians are cheaters and liars, and have a single message, a message of death. Contrary to the past, the Americans were more attentive this time, Peres recounted later. Israel must go on cautioning against the Iranian threat, the prime minister said. Security sources say that Israel must do everything possible to tighten the boycott on Iran and to isolate it in order to bring about the collapse of Rafsanjani's regime of ayatollahs.

Uri Lubrani, who joined Peres' entourage, cautioned U.S. Administration officials against Iranian intentions to turn Bosnia into a launching pad in the heart of Europe for operations against U.S. interests. Iranian inspiration might soon bring about attacks on U.S. soldiers in the former Yugoslavia, Lubrani warned the Americans. Peres estimated that today, in the wake of his visit, there is better cooperation on this issue between Israel and the United States.

On the issue of Iraq, Peres clarified that there is nothing to talk about as long as Saddam Husayn rules the country. He said he supports the Jordanian proposal to try to turn Iraq into a confederation composed of three different districts: a Kurdish one in the north, an Iraqi one in the center, and a Shiite one in the south. King Husayn told Peres that calls to split Iraq into states only strengthen Saddam Husayn, and that that is why the Jordanian monarch supports the idea of an Iraqi confederation.

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King, Christopher To Discuss MENA Proposals, Aid

JN1412095595 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14, 15 Dec 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected to visit Jordan next week as part of a visit that is primarily aimed at revitalising the Israeli-Syrian track of peace talks, and in Amman he will discus with His Majesty King Husayn means to follow up on the proposals discussed at the Amman economic summit on regional economic development.

Mr. Christopher, who begins the visit to the region late Thursday or early Friday after the signing of the Bosnia peace accord in Paris, is expected here Sunday or Monday after talks in Israel and in Syria.

The secretary of state will also visit Egypt as well as Jericho, where he will meet with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters in Washington on Tuesday that Mr. Christopher intends to "renew the dialogue (for peace) and to revitalise it, to see how much progress can be made in the coming months."

"His goal is to have thorough and comprehensive discussions with all parties, but particularly with the Syrian and Israeli leadership...," said Mr. Burns.

In Amman, Mr. Christopher will exchange views with King Husayn on the peace process and also "about how we can follow up" on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit held in Amman in October "to build greater support for regional economic growth and stability," the spokesman said.

Mr. Christopher and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown led a 150-strong American official and private sector team to the Oct. 29-31 summit and took active part in some of the deliberations of the summit. Their presence was seen as a reaffirmation of the Clinton Administration's commitment to economic development of the Middle East region through supporting the private sector.

One of the key issues for discussion between the King and Mr. Christopher is expected to be American military assistance to Jordan, an issue, according to reports in the Israeli press, which was raised by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in his meeting with President Bill Clinton at the While House on Monday.

Several senior American military officials visited Jordan over the past months, and it is generally expected that the issue of U.S. assistance to Jordan's Armed Forces has reached an advanced stage although precise details are not available.

Mr. Christopher's meeting with Mr. 'Arafat will take place Saturday in the autonomous West Bank town of Jericho, 'Arafat spokesman Nabil Abu-Rudaynah said.

They will discuss (Israel's) redeployment from Palestinian cities (and) the role of the United States in supporting the Palestinian people politically and economically," he added.

In Washington, Mr. Peres said Tuesday he had asked members of the U.S. Congress to put aside their squabbles over foreign aid to allow for rapid passage of a bill granting aid to the Palestinians.

"I put, in the strongest terms, the need to support the Palestinian cause," Mr. Peres told a news conference here, adding: "It is important for peace."

The House of Representatives last month approved the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, which allows for about $500 million in aid over five years to Palestinian self-government authorities.

But the measure contained in a sweeping foreign aid authorisation bill has been bogged down in negotiations between the Senate and the House over a separate debate on abortion.

King Calls For Change in Iraqi Government

NC1412111495 Paris AFP in English 0940 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Dec 14 (AFP)—Jordan's King Husayn called for a change in Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's government which he denounced as unfair, repressive and selfish, in an interview published here Thursday [14 December].

"We are hoping for an end to the nightmare, which the embargo constitutes, and the suffering due to the injustice, repression and attacks on human rights," King Husayn told the Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ.

"The formula I see is to encourage the Iraqis to hold a dialogue and agree on something about Iraq and encourage them to overcome fear and anxiety" flowing from a feeling that political change "will lead to a bloodbath," the king said.

Baghdad has shown "absolute selfishness" before the suffering of the Iraqi people, he said.

Before the UN embargo can be lifted, Baghdad must scrap its weapons of mass destruction and meet other demands imposed after the 1991 Gulf war to free Kuwait from seven months of Iraqi occupation.

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King Husayn, who was considered an Iraqi ally, started to criticize Baghdad after Husayn Kamil Hasan, Saddam's Husayn's son-in-law and architect of the secret weapons program, defected to Jordan in August.

The king said that Husayn Kamil had opened his eyes about what was happening in Iraq.

Jordan's Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said Sunday that his country planned to hold a meeting of Iraqi opposition members in Amman to debate Iraq's future.

King Husayn at the end of November in London met delegates of the Iraqi opposition to discuss Iraq's future. In an interview published on October 17 in the Financial Times, the king said that a federal Iraq might be a solution.

Iraq's 'Aziz Urges Noninvolvement With Opposition

MM1412100695 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 13 Dec 95 p 3

[Report By Bassam Baddarin: "Saddam Advises Jordanian Leadership Not To Bet on Opposition, Questions Reasons Behind Call for Federation and for Outlining Iraq's Future"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — The Jordanian plan for dealing with the Iraqi crisis by reshaping the Iraqi situation by way of a formula for an alliance and a federation is still causing some contradictory reactions within the Iraqi opposition parties and forces in London and other capitals, ranging from total rejection of this plan, to reluctant acceptance, to apparent enthusiasm.

This plan has also caused the Iraqi Government, which has ignored it from the moment Jordan proposed it, to react. The silence has not lasted for very long, and AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI's sources have revealed that a series of clarifications were recently requested by the Iraqi regime from the Jordanian leadership, in the form of an oral message conveyed by deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz to the Jordanian leadership during his stopover last Sunday in Amman on his way to New York.

The Iraqi Government had previously announced that 'Aziz would not meet with any Jordanian official during his stopover in Jordan. The sources revealed, however, that 'Aziz met in Amman last Sunday with representative 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, leader of the centrist majority in the Jordanian parliament.

He discussed with him the nature of the Jordanian role in the Iraqi issue and asked him to relay a message from President Saddam Husayn to King Husayn concerning the Iraqi position on the recent developments and contacts between the Iraqi opposition and the Jordanian leadership, and also raising some queries about the nature and background of the opposition's congress scheduled to be held in Amman.

The meeting lasted two hours, away from the media in the home of representative al-Majali, a prominent Jordanian political figure close to the government. It should be mentioned that representative al-Majali is a candidate for the post of deputy premier in the next Jordanian cabinet reshuffle, and also a prominent figure who has maintained positive and sometimes commercial relations with Iraq.

The meeting focused mainly on the Jordanian role in Iraq, and 'Aziz spoke with al-Majali on behalf of the Iraqi Government requesting clarification on the Jordanian view with regard to the so-called Iraqi opposition's congress scheduled to be held in Amman, and demanding that Jordan defines a clear position toward the current Iraqi regime.

During the meeting 'Aziz tried to show the cohesion of the current Iraqi regime and cast doubts on the objectives of the opposition figures who recently met with King Husayn. The sources quoted him as saying to al-Majali "that the opposition parties and forces do not agree with each other and have no influence inside Iraq," adding: "The opposition is nothing more than disparate groups linked to foreign, not national and Iraqi interests."

During this important meeting, according to our sources close to al-Majali, 'Aziz advised Jordan not to deal with weak opposition figures because these figures are practically incapable of having any impact inside Iraq and advised Jordan to initiate dialogue with the Iraqi Government and to make proposals directly to it, pointing out that the Iraqi Government holds many of the Jordanian plan's elements for an Iraqi federation.

At this meeting 'Aziz talked about the strong historical ties between Jordan and Iraq, saying: "Iraq believes that the possibility for cooperation and dialogue with Jordan is always there, in view of the two countries' mutual interests."

During the unpublicized meeting with Tariq 'Aziz, representative al-Majali for his part reaffirmed the constants of the Jordanian position toward the Iraqi issue, saying: "Jordan is not trying to partition Iraq, but instead is trying to help the Iraqi people as much as possible," pointing out that Jordan believes that the Iraqi leadership has "involved" us in some of the blatant mistakes which have reinforced the economic blockade and failed to dissuade the international forces of the

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need to change the Iraqi regime. Al- Majali said: "Jordan believes that establishing political pluralism in Iraq and paying attention to human rights would reinforce the opportunities for saving the Iraqi people."

The outcome of the meeting was an indirect message, the first of its kind from the Iraqi Government to the Jordanian leadership since Jordan started to exert a fundamental influence in the Iraqi equation. Observers expect that this indirect message will increase the controversy surrounding the Jordanian initiative that the Jordanian leadership is trying to promote.

This controversy focuses on the purpose of this initiative and its practical implementation, in view of geographic and demographic factors which define the Iraqi personality and which, according to the Shiite opposition, the Jordanian initiative has ignored.

Weekly's Editor Charged With Slandering Saddam

NC1312191095 Paris AFP in English
1813 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Dec 13 (AFP)—The editor of a Jordanian weekly was arrested and placed in custody for two weeks on Wednesday [13 December] pending trial on charges of slandering Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, the newspaper's publisher Jamal al-Muhtasib told AFP.

Al-Muhtasib said the government's press and publications department had launched legal proceedings against 'Ali Udaybat for "disturbing Iraqi-Jordanian relations and slandering Saddam Husayn in addition to an unnamed leader of a foreign country."

The SAWT AL-MAR'AH (Women's Voice) newspaper ran a headline comparing the Iraqi president's sweeping victory in a referendum on October 15 to landslide election victories by the late Egyptian leader Anwar al-Sadat.

It is the second such case in a month. Two journalists from AL-BILAD weekly were arrested in mid-November on slander charges.

King Husayn has repeatedly criticised the press in Jordan and the government has indicated that it plans to amend the current press and publications law to impose stricter penalties for such charges.

Under the current law, defendants face a fine of up to 1,400 dollars if convicted.

Charges Detailed

JN1312213295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
13 Dec 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ali 'Udaybat, chief editor of the weekly SAWT AL-MAR'AH will stand before Jamal al-Zu'bi, Amman's prosecutor general today, Wednesday, in the presence of a representative of the Jordanian Journalists Association, concerning an article published by SAWT AL-MAR'AH on 18 October 1995.

AL-RA'Y learned that the prosecutor general will level three charges against the chief editor. The charges are:

1. The crime of writing something that disturbs fraternal relations between Jordan and Iraq in violation of Article 118/2 of the Penal Code.

2. Slandering and openly insulting a head of a foreign state in violation of Article 122/2 of the Jordanian Penal Code.

3. Personally insulting Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in violation of Article 40/7 of the Press and Publications Law.

SAWT AL-MAR'AH published this material on its 10th and 11th pages.

AL-RA'Y also learned that Hasan 'Uthman, representative of the Press and Publications Department and director of the Legal Office at the department, filed a complaint against the chief editor in response to a message from the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Official: Decision To Expel Iranian Envoy Final

JN1312130095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
13 Dec 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Nirmin Murad; "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—A senior Jordanian official denied Tuesday [12 December] that Jordan had gone back on its decision to expel an Iranian diplomat and confirmed that the embassy's third secretary was involved in attempts to destabilise the Kingdom.

The senior official, who asked not to be named, was specifically referring to a "clarification" published by the Islamist AL-SABIL weekly yesterday in which the Iranian embassy said that "recent reports and rumours about the third secretary (Sa'id Bateni) are baseless." The embassy did not explain what these reports and rumours were but described them as "baseless accusations, allegations and fabrications."

The Iranian embassy's response published by AL-SABIL did not explicitly say that Jordan had gone back

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on its decision to expel Mr. Bateni but the wording of the statement appeared to lend credence to other reports that Jordan might have gone back on the expulsion decision following a meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Dastamalchian in which His Majesty was handed a message from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The Jordan News Agency, PETRA, which reported the meeting, did not say what the content of the letter was, but it said that it dealt with "bilateral relations and means of enhancing them for the benefit of the people in both countries."

The senior official, however, told the Jordan Times that the expulsion papers had been signed by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir and the decision to declare him a persona non grata still holds.

The official explained that the decision to expel the diplomat "is a serious decision that will also make clear to Iran and other countries that Jordan's security is not to be tampered with."

Jordan, according to the official, has been closely watching the activities of the Iranian diplomat and has tied him to specific activities that appear to target Jordan's security.

"Had the campaign against Jordan confined itself to media and political attacks we would have contained the problem just as we have contained similar problems throughout our history," the official said. "But because these campaigns have lent themselves to possible terrorist attacks, we will not sit idle and we will preempt any attack."

The official and other sources said that there had been attempts recently against Jordan's security and "we have been able to discover them and arrest the would-be perpetrators."

The "perpetrators," according to the sources, are linked to extremist Palestinian factions including the Abu-Nidal group, Jihad Islami and a new group by the name of 'Ikrimah

The sources said that these groups are generally known to be "guns for hire" and information available to Jordan indicated Iranian involvement with a possible backing from Syria.

Jordanian and Syrian foreign ministers 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti and Faruq al-Shar' met on the sidelines of the Barcelona conference in late November to discuss Jordan's concerns over attempts against its stability.

The sources did not reveal specific detail of the meeting but told the JORDAN TIMES that Mr. al-Shar' assured Mr. al-Kabariti that "Jordan's security is an integral part of the Syrian's security and that Damascus is committed to the stability" of the Kingdom.

The meeting between the two foreign ministers was witnessed by the Tunisian foreign minister.

But despite the assurances, Jordan, which is closely monitoring the quick developments and changes in the region generally, feels that the situation requires decisive and quick steps to curtail any attempt at rocking the stability of the kingdom, the sources said.

"Regardless of our brotherly relations with Syria, when it comes to our security we will not tolerate any hint of possible tampering with our stability to serve other countries, regional aspirations," one official source said.

Jordan, the only Arab country other than Egypt and the Palestinians that has signed a peace deal with Israel and a firm supporter of a solution in Iraq that would alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people, realises that the regional odds in such circumstances make it necessary for Amman to "be very firm in sending the right message to any country that may feel that Jordan can be weakened," the source explained.

King Congratulates 'Arafat on Israeli Withdrawal

JN1312134895 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king has congratulated Chairman of the Palestine National Authority Yasir 'Arafat on what has been achieved in the way of peace. During a phone call this morning, the king welcomed Israeli forces' departure from villages and towns in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

His majesty voiced appreciation of these achievements, which he said would bolster bases of peace in the region, saying the camp of peace will certainly win at the end. The king pledged that Jordan, as it always had been, would remain supportive of the Palestinian people's struggle to restore their legitimate rights on their national soil.

Opposition Parties Form Committee To Defend Party

JN1312122795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Dec 95 p 27

[Report by Musa Hawamidah]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a news conference at the Jordanian People's Democratic Party-Hashd headquarters yesterday, a coalition of Jordanian national opposition parties said the Hashd Party was taken to an Amman court for purely political reasons.

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A statement by the opposition parties, read by Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of Islamic Action Front [IAF], said the signatories—the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Progressive Arab Ba'th Party, the IAF, the Pan-Arab Action Front Party, the Constitutional Jordanian Arab Front Party, the Democratic Arab Unionist Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party-Hashd, the Jordanian Communist Party, and the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party—have confidence in the integrity of the Jordanian judiciary, which prevented government interference on more than one occasion. The opposition parties expressed their solidarity with the Hashd Party and said the government's decision to take Hashd to court conflicts with political and party pluralism and violates freedom of expression and political activity within the framework of the law.

Interior Minister Salamah Hammad sent an official letter to the public prosecutor on 15 January 1995 to take the Hashd Party to court because it has organizational, ideological, and financial links with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP].

The interior minister's letter was based on charges by the head of the General Intelligence Department, who accused the Hashd Party of violating the provisions of the law as noted in the National Construction Committee's statement, in the AL-UFUQ interview of former Party Secretary General Taysir al-Zibri, and in another interview with Deputy Bassam Haddadin. Moreover, Hashd Party members tendered their resignations from the party because of the party's connections with foreign quarters.

Hashd Secretary General Salim al-Nahhas said the relationship between Hashd and DFLP is a militant one, as stipulated in the party statutes and approved by the Interior Ministry. Hashd, he added, is a completely independent party and will reveal everything to the court.

Al-Nahhas denied that former Party Secretary General Taysir al- Zibri spoke about financial links with the DFLP. He said al-Zibri spoke only about militant relations, and this is legal according to the National Charter and the Parties Law.

Dr. al-Farhan said there is a difference between organic, organizational, and financial links on the one hand, and exchanging expertise and coordination on the other.

The opposition parties formed a 45-attorney committee to defend the Hashd Party. The committee is headed by Dr. Kamal Nasir, doyen of the Bar Association.

Prime Minister Defends Measures Against Shubaylat

JN1412110995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14, 15 Dec 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Sa'ida al-Kilani; "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Prime Minister Al-Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir said Wednesday [13 December] civilian judges would preside over the State Security Court which is expected to try opposition figure Layth Shubaylat, charged with slandering Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur.

The prime minister, who was replying to a comment made by Islamist Deputy Hammam al-Sa'id questioning why Mr. Shubaylat was referred to the State Security Court, which is normally presided over by military judges, said this case and similar cases fall under the jurisdiction of the State Security Court.

Deputy al-Sa'id had called on the Lower House of Parliament in its regular session on Wednesday to give more attention to the case against Mr. Shubaylat, who was arrested last week on charges of slandering Their Majesties and was remanded in custody for 15 days by Prosecutor Mahmud 'Ubaydat

Deputy Sa'id also accused the government of interfering in the judicial authority's powers and violating the individual's right to a fair trial.

"Until when civilians will continue to be sued in military courts?" he asked. "It is one of the phenomena of Third World countries where government interfere in the judicial authority's powers."

"We see respect for human dignity in countries all o er the world. Civilians are being brought to civil courts even in assassination attempts against the lives of presidents," he added. "While in our countries we see citizens brought to military courts for an article or a world" published or said.

The prime minister replied that "the State Security Law is a law that has been endorsed by the 11th Lower House of Parliament. The charges filed against Mr. Shubaylat fall under the jurisdiction of the State Security Court."

But Dr. al-Sa'id insisted that the House should defend Mr. Shubaylat, who "has dedicated himself to the cause of fighting normalisation (of Jordan's relations) with Israel."

The government's measures, Dr. al-Sa'id said, "are part and parcel of the general policy (of the government) which violates citizens' freedom and imprisons people for several months before they are referred to court. I

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demand the release of Mr. Shubaylat and that no other civilians be referred to a military court."

The prime minister replied: "Since the court is looking into the case, (the law) bans any debate or discussion (in any of its details) so as not to influence the court's rulings and to protect the individual's right to a fair trial.

"In my reply to one of the deputies I said that the court would be formed of civil judges."

The State Security Court is now formed of three military judges. The prime minister or the prosecutors' office has the power to redesignate judges, military or civil or both. The number of judges ranges between three and five.

Jawad Yunus. Mr. Shubaylat's lawyer, said he hoped that the case would not be referred to court. However, he claimed that there was procrastination in the investigation process to "force Mr. Shubaylat to confess to a crime he did not commit."

Mr. Yunus said he filed an application for bail for Mr. Shubaylat on Wednesday but it was not approved or denied.

Nine opposition parties protested the detention of Mr. Shubaylat and called for his immediate release saying he was "a prisoner of conscience." In a statement issued on Wednesday, the parties described the detention as a violation of the "normal legal procedures."

The statement linked Mr. Shubaylat's case with a case filed this week against the Jordan People's Democratic Party charging it with having links with a foreign group. It was also linked with the government's intention to introduce amendments to the Press and Publications Law that will give the government the power to close down newspapers and imprison journalists if they violated the law.

"Resorting to dialogue and referring to the Constitution ensure a democratic life and political stability," the statement said. "We, as opposition parties, are with democracy, stability and the rule of the law."

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Radio Commentaries View Peres' U.S. Statements

Remarks 'Step in Right Direction'

JN1312155195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Dec 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: Delaying what must be done is far better than doing nothing, especially when it comes to a an issue as crucial as peace. What Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has done in Washington, as well as his statements on the peace process, are a step in the right direction so long as they are coupled with other concrete moves toward a total withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

The past four years of the peace process have not produced any tangible progress toward a just and comprehensive peace as a result of Israel's policy of circumventing the bases of peace and bypassing the principles of the international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

In order not to miss the first step, as happened over the past four years, other realistic steps should follow, in substance and form, in line with the spirit and bases of just and comprehensive peace. It is indeed time to make peace and put an end to wars. Syria is serious about the peace process, is committed to it and its bases, and is determined to exert efforts to attain the goal of that process.

The bases and principles of peace are clear and are recognized by the international community, and Syria only wants to abide by them. It also believes that if the other side commits itself to these bases and principles and has good intentions, the desired peace will certainly be established.

The absence of peace in the region is basically due to Israel's occupation. Therefore, peace means putting an end to occupation and removing the consequences of aggression, as stipulated in UN resolutions, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the U.S. initiative. Therefore, just and comprehensive peace means Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories to beyond the borders that existed before the aggression and the occupation. This is what the U.S. initiative meant when it urged the principle of land for peace. The concept of trading land for peace is inseparable, and those near and far know that the peace process has stumbled because of Israel's previous policy of trying to have both.

Syria believes that just and comprehensive peace based on the abovementioned principles will be a basic guarantee for security in the region. In order to guarantee peace and find ways to safeguard it, continue it, and strengthen confidence in it, equal [mutasawiyah] and equitable [mutakafi'ah] security arrangements that do not encroach on either party's interests should be made.

Syria is extremely serious about establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Therefore, it welcomes every honest effort in this direction. Proceeding from this principle, Syria views with satisfaction efforts to advance the peace process, as well as U.S. President Bill Clinton's statements in which he stressed that he would be a partner in peace and that he would exert every effort to advance the peace process toward its desire objective.

The 1,000-mile march begins with a step. Syria has taken steps along this road and is waiting for others to follow suit and achieve the desired goal of peace.

'Other Steps,' Actions Needed

JN1412093795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 14 Dec 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary headlined "Peace: Syria's Option Before and After Peres Statements," AL-BA'TH says: The statements Shim'on Peres made in Washington — whether in the joint news conference with the U.S. President or at the U.S. Congress — were general in nature. Peres avoided specifics and indulged in wishes and hopes, singing the praises of peace without answering questions that must be answered. Peres once again called on Syria to achieve peace, without referring to any of the foundations of peace.

AL-BA'TH adds: Some media organs are trying to say that the statements made by Shim'on Peres amount to a peace initiative that could work miracles. Any fair observer must note that Peres is trying to make up for the great opportunities wasted by the Rabin government, in which he was foreign minister.

AL-BA'TH continues: Certain quarters, assisted by the mass media and television screens, are trying to give the impression that the peace process would not have existed had it not been for the Israeli Government and that Peres came to implement this process. This attempt cannot reverse well-known facts.

The paper adds that had it not been for Syria's response to the U.S. initiative, launched by former U.S. President George Bush, there would not have been any process. This is because Yitzhaq Shamir rejected this initiative in writing, and everybody knows about this. Had the issue been dependent on Syria alone, the peace process would have achieved its objective much earlier. The

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Israeli side failed to do certain things and it is to be blamed for all the negative developments in the peace process. These developments produced partial and unilateral agreements.

AL-BA'TH goes on: If Peres wants to reverse negative positions and work for a comprehensive and secure peace, as he said, then he will find that Syria will only reassert its commitment to the principles of the peace process and international resolutions, as well as its eagerness to achieve a true and viable peace. Peres will thus facilitate the mission of the U.S. sponsor, who suffered a great deal over the past years.

The newspaper concludes: Christopher's upcoming tour of the region is within the context of a clearer U.S. commitment to the peace process and amid a better atmosphere. This revives hope of a good start for this process on the Syrian track if the Peres government responds to the U.S. efforts, complies with the peace requirements, and does away with the illusions of the past that stalemated this process. Syria's position is clear and its foundations and requirements are well known. This position is not a hurdle in the way of a just and comprehensive peace. Syria is willing and ever ready for full peace in exchange for full withdrawal.

On the same issue, AL-THAWRAH says: Apparently, Israel has adopted a new method in dealing with the question of a just and comprehensive peace, in terms of the foundations and requirements and recognizing the role of Syria and the importance of reaching an agreement with it and with Lebanon. The purpose of this is to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and to achieve security and stability in the region.

AL-THAWRAH adds: In Syria's view, the new Israeli attitude has positive signals. Syria shall continue to work for a just and comprehensive peace. This peace has well-known foundations, primarily the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle. This is because a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees the restoration of land and rights is a true peace that guarantees stability in the region and one that ensures everybody's interests and preserves the dignity of all.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: If we go back to the statements of Shim'on Peres and other senior Israeli officials and the positive signals these statements contain, we can say that these statements amount to an important step in the right direction. This step should be followed by other steps, since peace depends on actions rather than words.

In a commentary today headlined "Syria Supports Peace," TISHRIN says: The Syrian-Israeli peace track is the focus of attention of observers in general. The international quarters which are directly or indirectly concerned stressed the need to reactivate this track to achieve progress. This would rejuvenate the peace process and open the door for a comprehensive and firm peace in the entire Middle East.

TISHRIN adds: Recent developments — primarily Syria's commitment to the foundations of the peace process, the Israeli premier's announcement of his readiness to resume the talks, and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's upcoming tour of the region — have revived hopes of making substantial progress. This would restore the momentum of the peace process.

TISHRIN continues: Peace, in effect, will achieve many benefits for the countries of the region and the world and will enhance international peace and the climate of relaxation and cooperation. Successive developments have shown that security cannot be achieved by occupation or usurpation of the land of others and that a just and honorable peace is the best guarantee of security. This is because this peace restores rights and removes injustice and occupation in the region.

The newspaper concludes by asserting that Syria is ready to establish a firm and permanent peace if Israel responds to its fair demands, which make up the essence of Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy.

Paper Views Christopher's Tour, Peres Remarks

JN1412113695 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 14 Dec (SANA)— The newspaper AL-THAWRAH wonders: Where is credibility in Shim'on Peres' statements in Washington, and what has changed so that the picture seems as if it has become clearer.

In an article today under the headline "Where Is the Credibility of Optimism?" by Dr. Fayiz al-Sa'igh, the paper adds: It is not pessimistic to say that those who follow the Israeli statements and stands in any world capital, including Washington, realize that these statements were optimistic, and that when they [Israeli officials] return to the region you will find that these statements have evaporated and things have returned as they were before.

The paper says that the objective is to win the world public opinion and to cover the true Israeli position.

AL-THAWRAH clarifies that the dose of optimism which has been imported from outside the region will not do the region any good; on the contrary, it will contribute to returning matters to conditions which are more difficult than before.

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The paper calls on Israel to translate its words into deeds and to announce tangible and specific measures that are in harmony with the prevailing optimism so that the peace calls and wishes can be implemented on the ground.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH expresses the hope that Christopher's tour of the region will bring something new and concrete which would contribute to advancing the peace process and to resuming the talks to achieve the aspired objective.

The paper praises the U.S. Administration's persistent and serious efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

Spokesman Details al-Asad Anniversary Amnesty Bill

NC1412132595 Paris AFP in English 1312 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Dec 14 (AFP)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad sent a bill to parliament on Thursday [14 December] calling for an amnesty for an unspecified number of prisoners, spokesman Jibran Kuriyah said.

Kuriyah, in a statement to AFP, said the amnesty was decreed to mark the 25th anniversary of al-Asad's rule.

The amnesty covered "certain" crimes committed before November 1995, spokesman Jibran Kuriyah said.

He did not elaborate on the nature of their crimes.

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Afghanistan

Kabul Airport Region Said Hit by 30 Rockets

LD1312130795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The northeastern suburbs of Kabul and areas close to Khawajarawash Airport [Kabul International Airport] were reported to have been hit with at least 30 Katyusha rockets this morning.

Government sources in Afghanistan announcing the news added that the attack left no human losses due to the region's being non-residential.

Also, a source from the Defense Ministry of Afghanistan said this morning that the Taleban militia and the forces loyal to Borhanoddin Rabbani, the president, last night brought each others' positions under heavy fire in Sangnevishtah, in the south of Kabul.

According to the said sources, the exchange of fire in Sangnevishtah lasted for three hours. There is, however, no report on the number of casualties of the fighting in that region.

Taleban Fires Rockets at Kabul 'Residential Areas'

LD1312175795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The residential areas of Kabul were targeted with rockets by the hireling Taleban today. Bakhtar reports that this morning the hireling Taleban fired 40 rockets into the residential areas of Kabul as a result of which two Kabul residents were (?injured). [Words indistinct]

Government Repels Taleban Offensive South of Kabul

LD1312221295 Tehran IRNA in English 2148 GMT 13 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Dec 13, IRNA — A Taleban offensive at the Kheyrabad and Sangnebesht-e regions, south of Kabul, was repelled today by the troops loyal to Afghani President Borhanoddin Rabbani. According to a statement released by the Afghani Defence Ministry today, the Taleban militia on Tuesday [12 December] night repeatedly launched coordinated attacks at Kheyrabad and Sangnebesht-e regions but were forced to withdraw by the heavy fire of the state troops. In the exchange of fire which lasted for about two and half hours, the Taleban militiamen were inflicted heavy casualty [as received], the statement added.

The source said that the Taleban group was preparing ground for another assault before the approach of winter. However, it did not go into any details on extent of the casualities suffered by the government side.

Some 500 religious students from Baluchestan and frontier provinces of Pakistan, according to some informed sources, are expected to join the Taleban forces in the southern Kabul.

The students will enter into Afghanistan via Kandahar and Paktia provinces to reinforce the Taleban militia against the government troops, added the same source. Meanwhile, the Afghani government is beefing up the defense line with fresh fighters and new weaponry in order to be able to foil the Taleban's possible offensives at Chahar Asiab and other sectors in southern Kabul.

The government is determined to push back the Taleban forces by launching intensive counter attacks aimed at bringing out the capital of afghanistan, Kabul, from the artillary range of the Taleban militia.

Central Regions of Kabul Hit by Rockets

LD1412104795 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Dec. 14, IRNA — Central regions of the capital city Kabul were brought under heavy artillery attack and hit by at least eight Katyusha rockets at 10 a.m. local time Thursday [14 December].

The rockets struck the streets around the presidential palace, behind the Italian embassy, Amani high school and a number of other nearby areas.

According to the Afghan government sources, the shelling caused no casualties but inflicted small scale damage.

Government officials as well as the eye-witnesses blamed the Taleban group for being behind the shelling of residential quarters in Kabul.

During the current week, more than 200 long-range artillery and Katyusha rockets have been launched on Kabul residential quarters, administrative centers and around international airport, causing devastation of a number of residential units and claiming tens of lives.

Iran

U.S. Senate's 'Bullying' Sanctions Criticized

LD1412104895 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA — Counting the measures taken recently by the U.S. Senate, a morning daily strongly criticized the Senate

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bullying and commented that its action has so far dealt sever blows to the U.S. prestige.

The English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial on Thursday wrote that this week the U.S. Senate banking committee unanimously decided to tighten sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran by punishing foreign companies dealing with Iran's oil industry.

It added that the measure is expected to be passed by both houses of the U.S. Congress and reportedly has the blessings of President Bill Clinton.

The U.S. Congress is also known to be behind the refusal of Washington to pay some dlrs.[dollars] 1.25 billion of U.N. obligatory contributions which now threatens the world body which it helped to establish, the paper pointed out.

It also said that in a related move, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, George Moose, announced Tuesday that the United States is also considering an oil embargo against Nigeria, which recently executed a noted opposition writer and his followers, to force its military rulers to hand power over to civilians.

The paper went on to say, "these latest demonstrations of U.S. bullying point to the fallacy of the belief that whoever holds the purse wields authority."

"Experience will prove that even prodigal sons will not always yield to threats of a financial boycott," the daily continued.

The paper added, "when President Clinton signed into law the first bill tightening sanctions on Iran in July, he tried to rally European countries to support the blockade, but to no avail."

When the United States decided to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the international body continued its activities unhampered.

U.S. ambassador to Geneva, Daniel Spiegel, made a stinging attack on the "forces of isolation and reaction" seeking to cut funding to the United Nations, comparing them to an absent father who refuses to support his children.

The daily also said, "the United States tries to hold its financial strings as though it were not itself beset with the worst of financial problems in its own household."

Moreover, the French oil company, Total, has already questioned the legal basis of any sanctions the U.S. Government could possibly impose on an international community where each state is a sovereign entity.

"On the other hand, by neglecting treaty obligations which make it internationally indictable for non-payment of its U.N. obligations, it lays down the example that laws, especially those of an international character, have very little domestic effect," the paper pointed out.

It added, "the international community is rich in experience of more powerful countries trying to bully the less powerful and ending themselves castigated."

The daily continued, "the answer is as it has always been: 'no way' for U.S. bullying. If it wants to regain its status as a reliable world power it should set the example by, at least, showing financial credebility and coming up to its mandatory obligations to the world body."

"The Senate bullying has so far dealt severe blows to the U.S. prestige. If the Senate wants to settle its differences with Clinton Adminstration, there are other ways to recourse to. The House of Representatives should not allow the Senate to hold the American nation and prestige to ransom," the editorial concluded.

Official Criticizes Peres' 'Unfounded' Statement

LD1412114695 Tehran IRNA in English
0808 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA — A senior Foreign Ministry official blasted the prime minister of the Zionist regime, Shim'on Peres, for making unfounded statement.

The deputy foreign minister for Arab-African affairs, Hoseyn Shaykh ol-Eslam, in an interview with the English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' printed on Thursday [14 December] said that apparently Shim'on Peres has forgotten that he himself is the sponsor and executer of nuclear projects and reactors meant for manufacturing nuclear warheads in Israel.

Commenting on recent statement of the Israeli prime minister at a joint session of the U.S. Congress, he added that the outcome of the projects has thus far been 200 nuclear warheads for Israel, noting this is a source of concern for the Muslims and Arabs.

While Peres raised peace slogans, the Arab League, Egypt and other Arab countries urge the Zionist regime to abide by international rules and regulations and conventions, he said,

The Zionist regime refrains from signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and submission to the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Foreign Ministry official added.

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The deputy foreign minister also said, "the Islamic Republic of Iran has several times reiterated that its nuclear energy is used merely for peaceful purposes and that within the framework of international rules and regulations which is closely supervised by the IAEA. Iran wants nuclear technology for the welfare and prosperity of its citizens."

"Hence, such accusations by the officials of the Zionist regime aim at creating horror and tension in the region, Shaykh ol-Eslam said, adding that Israel also spares no effort in disturbing Iran's relations with its neighbors.

He underlined that the main purpose of such disinformation campaign is to make Arabs forget their main enemy, Israel.

Shaykh ol-Eslam also said that the Zionist regime tries to create unprecedented tension in the region for implementing its hegemonistic, expansionist policies by disseminating unfounded accusations.

The final aim of the Zionist regime is to control the material, cultural and human resources of the Muslims and Arab countries of the region, the deputy foreign minister concluded.

Radio Views 'Ambiguites' of Bosnian Peace Accord

LD1412125495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 14 Dec 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The proposed Bosnian peace accord is being signed despite the fact that there are many ambiguities surrounding many of its clauses, and that the future of some of the fundamental issues it covers have not been clarified.

The most important issue is that the fate of hundreds of thousands of refugees — most of whom are Muslims — is still not clear. The situation is further complicated by the fact that the record of Serb crime in Muslim-populated regions has made Bosnia's Muslim refugees afraid to return to their original homes.

Moreover, the basing of 60,000 NATO troops in Bosnia gives rise to many problems related to the provision of facilities and equipment and the preparation of local amenities.

At the same time, the question of international assistance for the reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina is still being discussed, and it is not clear how the $4.9 billion needed to fund Bosnia's reconstruction will be secured, especially as the United States and Europe are endeavoring to make other countries pay the greater part of the cost of peace while trying to gain for themselves the credit as peacemakers.

Besides, there still remains a long list of difficulties standing in the way of the peace process in Bosnia, including the fact that the Serbs continue to make expansionist claims against the Muslims and that the ultimate fate of the punishment to be meted out to the war criminals — including the Bosnian Serb leaders — is veiled by ambiguity.

According to political analysts, hopes of peace in Bosnia will increase with the signing of the peace accord in Paris, but until proper arrangements are adopted to guarantee a lasting peace, the danger of the war and expansionist drives resuming should not be ignored. Such arrangements should take into consideration the need to help the government and people of Bosnia to achieve a state of military balance as a deterrent to any renewed Serb aggression. There is also the vital need to mete out just and decisive punishments to the war criminals in order to prevent the renewed rise of Fascist tendencies in the Balkans.

Velayati Returns From OIC, Paris Conferences

NC1412071895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Velayati returned from the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] foreign ministers meeting and from the third joint session of the Islamic and Western contact groups this morning and said: Despite the wish by some Western countries to prevent Islamic countries from intervening in the Balkan problem, the active presence and intervention of the Islamic countries in the Bosnian issue has shown the determination of the Islamic world—something that has been unprecedented in the 25-year history of the OIC.

Commenting on the joint session of the Islamic and Western contact groups in Paris, Velayati said:

[Begin Velayati recording] Yesterday's Paris meeting between the Islamic and Western contact groups was the third of its kind. During this meeting, the Islamic countries added complementary proposals to the draft document prepared by the French Government. Almost of all these proposals were accepted. We hope that they will be taken into consideration during implementation as well.

We proposed that Bosnia's territorial integrity and the Bosnian Government's sovereignty over the entire country be respected and strengthened; that Sarajevo is indivisible and should be maintained as the center of Bosnia;

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that the war criminals, whose fate has unfortunately not been clarified in the Dayton pact, be unequivocally indicted and punished by the international court on war crimes; that both the Islamic and the Western governments help in Bosnia's reconstruction, especially of its defense, so that when the peacekeeping forces leave Bosnia, the past crimes will not be repeated and the Bosnian people will be able to defend themselves. [end recording]

Velayati's Comments on OIC Reported

NC1412085495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 14 Dec 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our foreign minister returned to Tehran this morning after participating in the 23d session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] members in Conakry and in the third joint session of the Islamic and International Contact Groups in Paris.

After his arrival in Tehran, he spoke to correspondents about the outcome of his week-long visits to Guinea and Paris. In this interview, Dr. Velayati referred to the 25-year record of the OIC and said that one of the achievements scored by the organization was its unprecedented presence in the Bosnian issue. He noted: Among the positive activities of the OIC in the recent developments was the unification of the Islamic world and the joining of voices of the Islamic ummah in unison in support for the oppressed Bosnian people.

The foreign minister went on to add that the world of Islam decisively displayed its common determination within the OIC framework and through its active intervention in the Bosnian problem. And this shows, he said, that the Islamic countries can, through coordination and unification, play a role in international developments proportional to their power and potentials and can prevent the big powers from defining developments.

In the 23d session of the OIC foreign ministers meeting, one of the most important topics that was discussed was the organization's performance over the past 25 years. It was seeking to identify and overcome its weaknesses; and coordinate and conform as much as possible to the new international conditions. At a time when Western powers and especially the United States are trying to spread discord among the Islamic countries and thus prevent their effective presence on the international scene, the efforts by the Islamic countries to achieve greater coordination will strengthen them when confronting developments and today's world problems.

As in all other international and regional organizations, the various points of disagreement among the 53 members of the OIC weaken the organization's ability to forward its objectives. However, in view of the members' many common points, they can form a common front and work to fulfill their common objectives. Thus, with the efforts by the 23d session of the OIC foreign ministers to coordinate on international issues, an important step was taken in this direction.

Further on Velayati's Comments

LD1412090895 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 14 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA — The Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, arrived here Thursday [14 December] morning after attending the 23th session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Conakry, Guinea, and the third meeting of the Islamic and Western nations' Contact Group in Paris.

On his arrival here, Velayati in an interview with reporters termed the Dayton accord as unjust, adding that, however, the Bosnian Government and people regard it as a prelude to peace.

The foreign minister stressed the punishment of the Bosnia's war criminals whose fate has not been specified in the Dayton accord.

Velayati, referring to the achievements of OIC, said that unifying Muslim nations in support of the Bosnian people is one of the most significant achievements of the organization.

The minister pointed out that the world of Islam with active involvement of OIC exhibited its decisive determination which is unprecedented in the 25-year-long history of the organization.

Paper Criticizes Bonn for 'Unfriendly Gestures'

LD1212132095 Tehran IRNA in English 1251 GMT 12 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA — A morning daily criticizing the recent unfriendly gestures adopted by certain German departments towards Iran, urged the Bonn government to prevent any disturbance in Irano-German relations.

The English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial on Tuesday [12 December] wrote, "On Sunday the German federal prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe said it was opening an investigation on Iranian Information Minister 'Ali Fallahian for baseless charges against him, alleging that he is involved in the murder of

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four Iranian opposition militants belonging to terrorist organizations."

The paper added, "The probe may well be another measure by pro- Zionist groups in Germany just as a couple of weeks ago, under Zionist influence, the Bundestag cancelled a meeting to be attended by 'Ali Akbar Velayati."

It continued, "It is surprising that German judiciary officials have not been able to realize that Iran is the chief victim of terrorism. Under no circumstances does Iran encourage or sponsor terrorism."

There are several opposition groups both inside and outside Iran. "The Islamic government does not need to liquidate its opponents, especially those abroad, because, on the one hand, it enjoys maximum popularity and, on the other hand, there is no threat posed by the opposition."

The paper added, "There is much opposition within the opposition. The opposition groups are so opposed to each other that the killing of Sadegh Sharafkandi and the other Iranians who were shot in September 1992 in the Berlin restaurant, Mykonos, is an obvious manifestation of intra-opposition rivalry."

The editorial pointed out, "Iran has not even tried to neutralize Masud Rajavi who heads a terrorist organization and is very active in anti-Iran activities outside the country. Hence, accusing Iran of trying to purge the politically-castrated opposition is an absurd charge."

"The highest echelon of German political hierarchy should rein in those officials who, under the influence of Zionist circles, are out to disturb bilateral relations by resorting to mischievous plots. German officials should learn a lesson from the aborted American attempts at isolating Iran. It is not difficult for Iran to replace the U.S. with other international trade partners."

It concluded, "Mutual cooperation and accommodation is the best policy for promotion of Iran-Germany relations. Iran has proven that it is willing to expand relations with Germany, Bonn should take this as encouragement and not follow an opponent's self-interested attack."

Rafsanjani Receives New Qatari Ambassador

LD1112124195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Qatar's new ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran presented his credentials to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today.

During the meeting [Ambassador] 'Abd al-Aziz al-Kawari expressed delight at the high-level and good relations between Iran and Qatar. He said: I bring you and the Iranian nation best wishes from the amir and the people of Qatar. He also said that Qatar is interested in deepening cooperation with the Islamic republic of Iran in the political, economic, technical, and commercial fields. He said he hopes that in the course of fulfilling his duties, he will benefit from the cooperation and assistance of officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

For his part President Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that Qatar and Iran's existing friendly relations are exemplary. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy is based on the principle of good-neighborliness and the expansion of relations with neighboring and Muslim countries. He said the political resolve of the two countries' officials to increase bilateral ties even more, gives important backing to the fulfillment of this objective in the future.

Pakistan

Officials, Press View U.S. Statement on Karachi

Party Leaders on 'Interference'

BK1412030595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement issued in Islamabad, Senator Iqbal Haider, the Pakistan People's Party official responsible for human rights issues, said that the U.S. State Department's comment on the situation in Karachi is unjustified and unwarranted, and the State Department's statement in this connection is an absolute interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan. He said the United State's statement, its text, and its timing do not reflect the U.S. Administration's neutrality and commitment to eliminate terrorism.

Expressing deep concern over the U.S. comment, the leader of Tehrik-i-Jafaria also said that Karachi is Pakistan's internal problem, and the United States does not have any right to interfere in Pakistan's internal affairs.

Editorial Views 'Misplaced Concern'

BK1412100495 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 14 Dec 95 p 6

[Editorial: "A Misplaced Concern"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has rejected the U.S. State Department's statement on the Karachi situation as an interference in our internal affairs and not in keeping with the principles governing relations between friendly countries. Commenting on the substance of

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the U.S. statement, a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad in a strongly worded statement said that the violence perpetrated by terrorists in Karachi was being brought under control by strong measures by the local administration. Describing these measures as within the parameters of the law, he said "there have been no custodial deaths or extrajudicial killings. Action has been taken where there have been police excesses. The government has not placed curbs on the freedom of the Press or interfered with the independence of the judiciary." The spokesman took strong exception to the U.S. State Department reference to MQM [Mujahir Qaumi Movement] controlled areas and said: "No areas in Karachi or any part of Sindh or Pakistan is under the control of any group of terrorists or any organisation." He said the government had already deplored the murder of innocent relatives of MQM Chief Altaf Hussain as well as the killings of the brother of Sindh Chief Minister. These killings were in fact a setback to the government's efforts to restore normalcy in Karachi. A judicial enquiry has already been ordered. It appears this tragedy was perpetrated by extremist factions who wanted to inflame passions, harden positions on both sides and give rise to a new cycle of violence. He said the government would continue to fight against terrorism whether fuelled by political extremists or by the narcotics traffickers and restore normalcy in Karachi. "The government sincerely believes in resolving political issues and differences in a peaceful manner through negotiations but it cannot compromise its stand on terrorism." he said.

Needless to say, the violence in Karachi is an internal matter for Pakistan and appropriate corrective measures are being taken to resolve this issue in the best national interest. Karachi has been the victim of the worst type of terrorism for a long time. Innocent people, including women and children, have been abducted, tortured and brutally murdered. Nobody's life and property is safe. A reign of terror has been let loose there. No government can tolerate lawlessness on such a scale. The terrorists have taken hostage the entire population of the city. Alongside administrative measures, the government has started negotiations with the representatives of Altaf Group and several round of talks have been held. The talks are to be resumed soon and it is hoped that the situation would soon be of foreign trained saboteurs. The Pakistan Government is doing its utmost to tackle the situation. But it is nobody's business to give unsolicited advice and comment on our internal affairs. As a nation we have the capacity to solve comment on our internal affairs. As a nation we have the capacity to solve our problems in the best national interest.

Daily Backs Rejection of U.S. 'Concern'

BK1412113095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 14 Dec 95 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Concern on Karachi"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WHY are the killings in Karachi a matter of such deep concern to Washington that the State Department has deemed it appropriate to make an official statement and offer unsolicited advice on an issue which is by no stretch of the imagination anybody's business. "We continue to believe that the best way to end the current violence in Karachi is at the bargaining table," the State Department spokesman said. While the Foreign Office in Islamabad has, for a change, promptly described the State Department comment on Karachi violence as "interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan and not in keeping with the principles governing relations between friendly countries," it may not be enough to repair the damage by asserting that the "strong measures" being taken by the government to bring violence under control have been "within the parameters of law." Notwithstanding the government's denial that it is playing the same game as the terrorist in Karachi, the State Department's stricture of what it calls "sharp increase in reported extrajudicial killings, extortion and custodial deaths by security forces" has clearly brought home the message that no one, not even the government's most sought-after friend and ally abroad, is willing to buy the official version of happenings in Karachi. Whether it is the government's low credibility" or the MQM's [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] access to the right quarters, the Americans have gone out of their way to acknowledge violence in Karachi as a question that they would like to be resolved through negotiations. The U.S. move, apart from being a violation of all diplomatic norms, is tantamount to meddling in Pakistan's domestic politics, albeit it is neither surprising nor unprecedented. If our government is prone to treating the Americans as our "patron-saints" and seeking their intervention in areas of basic policy formulation, nothing would stop them from arrogating to themselves the right to interfere in matters of their own choice and interest.

The American interference in Pakistan's domestic affairs is, to say the least by invitation, and regardless of how embarrassing the State Department's comment on Karachi violence has been, the government is itself to blame for letting the on Karachi violence has been, the government is itself to blame for letting the Americans have a finger in every pie. If Altaf Hussain's image has grown larger than life and he is having the best of all possible worlds, projecting himself on the international circuit as a crusader for human rights, it is the end result

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of political mismanagement. But, far from realising the imperative of rallying optimum support against terrorism and to cut the prophet of violence down to size by isolating him politically, the government has blundered even more blatantly by pushing the Parliamentary Opposition to the wall. The Americans may have an ulterior motive in natronising the MQM or as some observers think they may have a vested interest in the creation of another Hong Kong, but, nevertheless, their expression of deep concern over violence in Karachi should be a matter of rejoicing for New Delhi, which has been trying to equate violation of human rights in Occupied Kashmir with the Karachi situation.

Daily Views 'Unfortunate' Comment

BK1412105395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 14 Dec 95 p 7

[Editorial: "American Statement"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The "concern" voiced by the United States over the situation in Karachi is understandable as it is in keeping with its current policy of advocating peace in trouble spots the world over. The conditions in the port city have reached a level that are rightly causing anxiety abroad, especially among states trying to stabilise the South Asian region. It is in this context that Karachi, even though it is a city and its troubles are an internal affair of Pakistan, cannot be isolated from the overall conditions in this region.

Hopefully, Washington's comment was spurred by purely humanitarian considerations for the suffering the people are undergoing due to the ongoing conflict. It made a fair assessment of some of the factors involved and rightly called for a dialogue to end the violence. To this extent the statement is understandable and can be seen as support for the efforts to end the crisis.

Surprisingly, the statement does not end at the line which defines the parameters of what is the permissible area of comment and that which is purely internal. The strong language used in parts and certain issues touched upon exceed the limits of diplomatic propriety and impinge on Pakistan's internal affairs. It is this aspect of the "deep concern" which is questionable, especially as it is for the second time within a week that the U.S. State Department has made known its barbed views about Karachi.

The comments are particularly unfortunate, as these do not make any reference to the efforts that are being made by the authorities to contain the violence and the factors responsible for it. Even though an earlier observation by a State Department functionary that the violence as "resulting from legitimate political grievances which have been enormously magnified by extremism and lawlessness" makes sense, it tends to abstract the conflict from the ground realities. The statement would have been much more germane to the situation had it endeavored to view it in a perspective which was balanced and not prejudiced by preconceived notions. Such comments far from contributing towards ending the violence only make it worse.

One would have hoped that Washington would have been a little more judicious while commenting on such a sensitive issue to ensure that whatever was said was for the good of all. But making an ex-cathedra pronouncement with a self-assumed authority of being over and above all states is not only counterproductive for doing good deeds but smacks of superpowerism.

The Pakistan Government has rightly reacted strongly towards the comment describing it as "interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan and not in keeping with the principles governing relations between friendly countries." It will not be possible to view Washington's utterances in any other light than as a transparent effort to act in a manner that might legitimise any move to meddle in other states' domestic difficulties.

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